■ SUNDAY BIZ / B1
Legacy of '30s entrepreneur who set up 70-year-old shop, and counting

■ METRO / A23
Tibetan temple in Sta. Mesa offers more than visual appeal

■ NEWS / A22
Navy troops clash with retired superiors over Fort's housing

■ Sunday Inquirer Magazine
She shares same name as Imeldific; brother's name is Ferdinand, his fiancee, Imelda

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, May 21, 2006 ** Vol. 21 / No. 162

RP law firm cries GMA vendetta in HK raid

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST LAW firms—Fernalo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles—is crying political vendetta after Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) swooped down on its office in the former British colony upon the request of the Philippine government.

RP LAW A14

Like teflon, GMA criticisms don't stick, say House allies

By Philip C. Tubeza and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

DO YOUR WORST. FILE another impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo and it would be dismissed faster than you could say Hello, Garci.

GRACE 04

Palace: No to mining ban

Foreign owners to stay; industry still government's priority

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SAYING A BAN WAS NOT the answer, Malacañang yesterday stood firm on its policy allowing big foreign companies to operate mines despite recommendations to stop Australian mining activities on Rapu-Rapu island and review the country's liberalized mining law.

"Our country is blessed as one of the most highly mineralized countries in the world. It would be a disservice to our people if our full mineral potential is not realized as this is clearly a source of employment and development," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"A ban on mining is not the answer but the standards and safeguards already in place and existing laws must be strictly enforced. Mining remains a priority for development," Bunye stressed.

Bunye issued the statement after the Malacañang-created Rapu-Rapu Fact-finding Commission submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday a report recommending the scrapping of the environmental compliance certificate issued to the Australian Lafayette Group and calling for a moratorium on mining on the 5,000-ha island of Rapu-Rapu in Albay.

It also called for a review of the Mining Act, especially its provisions on foreign ownership and management of mining companies and operations.

The commission launched an inquiry following mine tailings spills on Rapu-Rapu.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio said in a radio interview that the commission might have overstepped its bounds when it recommended wholesale changes in the law.

"This is not a matter of whether the mining law should be amended or repealed. We will be guided by inputs

PALACE A 04

THE IMAX EXPERIENCE delights President Arroyo flanked by SM Prime Holdings Inc. vice president Tessie Sy-Coson and its president Hans Sy. Ms Arroyo was the special guest at the inauguration of the country's largest mall, SM Mall of Asia, where she watched through polarized lenses trailers of upcoming movies in the San Miguel Coca Cola IMAX theater. With wraparound digital sound, images of stunning clarity on a screen that's eight stories high, IMAX is touted to be the only way to view a movie in the 21st century. The Mall of Asia is a dream come true for the visionary SM founder Henry Sy. (Another photo on Page A2.)

Daughter of 1st Sherpa on Everest married Pinoy

By Fe Zamora

A BLUE PEN LIES SOMEWHERE UNDER the snow at the summit of Mt. Everest, left there by Sherpa Tenzing Norgay when he reached the "roof of the world" with Sir Edmund Hillary on May 29, 1953.

The Sherpa's young daughter Nima had given him the blue pen, and he dug a hole in the snow and buried it along with a few biscuits and chocolates as gifts to the mountain, while Hillary planted the British flag.

This is among the memories of her father that Nima, widow of the Filipino graphic artist and book designer Emmanuel "Noli" Galang, treasures.

She was in grade school at the time. "I just gave him the pen. I must have said, 'If you go up to the top, here, bring this,'" she said, chuckling.

Herself a mountaineer in her youth, Nima, now 62, expressed elation that three Filipinos had reached the summit of Everest, duplicating her father's feat 53 years ago.

"This is a great achievement. My congratulations to the mountaineers and to the Filipino people," she said by telephone from Singapore, where she now lives with her son Palden.

Nima said her father was "among the pioneers who opened the routes that these mountaineers now follow."

DAUGHTER A13

Fr. Reuter: Honorary Pinoy still dreams at 90

By Christian V. Esguerra

JESUIT PRIEST FR. JAMES B. REUTER turns 90 years old today and shows no signs of slowing down.

"I don't believe in retiring," the New Jersey native and honorary Filipino tells the Inquirer in an interview on Friday.

Arguably the only clergyman who really knows and understands media culture in the Philippines, Reuter remains relatively fit, if not for a long-running heart condition that has limited his movements and has forced him to use a cane.

Arthritis has also kept him from indulging in some of his favorite activities—swimming and jogging.

Hard to believe, but every day since the 1960s, he used to walk the entire three-kilometer stretch of Pedro Gil, starting from St. Paul College where he would say Mass, all the way to Xavier House in Sta. Ana, Manila where he lives and holds office.

"I'm known for this, this is my street. If I didn't appear, people in the neighborhood would wonder," Reuter says.

But two years ago, he had to stop his three-kilometer walks and has since found consolation in daily 15-minute exercises on his stationary bike.

Other than health conditions brought on by natural aging, Reuter is very much the same man who's lived in the Philippines since 1938. He's gifted with athleticism, clarity of thought and artistic sensibility.

He has had no heart attacks, no strokes. He went under the knife six times due to a hernia and broke his nose three times because of football and basketball. Suffice it to say, he's as durable as a Navy liferaft even a triathlete.

Reuter, who has made a mark in radio, television and theater, still has big plans for the Catholic Church's National Office of Mass Media, which he has headed since the 1960s.

He remains optimistic that Filipinos—often maligned elsewhere for their poverty and politics—would eventually be understood, appreciated and respected.

"We will rise," he says. "Others think we are low simply because we have no money. But it's not the only criterion. We invest in life and love and they are far more important."

Reuter has much credibility when it comes to resilience and persevering divine grace that carries the faithful through.

Four years ago while attending the golden jubilee of his former students at Ateneo de Nagà's Class of 1952, his enlarged heart caused swelling in his legs and affected his lungs. His heartbeat went down to 30.

FR. REUTER A4

WHEN TO RETIRE? Don't, advises Fr. James Reuter SJ, or you go into decline. Turning 90 today, he's lived and worked among the Filipinos since 1938.

Doc Ted: RP's unsung hero on Mt. Everest

By Alexis Papa

FILIPINOS ARE A BIG HIT AT MT. EVEREST's Base Camp not only for the 1-2-3 finish of three of their own but also for showing international expeditions what goodwill is all about.

According to Fine Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition team leader Arturo Valdez, FPMEE physician Ted Esguerra is probably the most popular person at the camp, which is situated 5,400 meters (17,700 feet) up the mountain.

Esguerra, a member of the Philippine Coast Guard and an expert in search and rescue, has been treating for free mountaineers afflicted with acute mountain sickness (AMS), as well as minor frostbite and respiratory ailments.

Normally, a visit to a commercial "clinic" at Base Camp would cost a climber $75.

"That presence here, with Dr. Ted around, has had an impact on climbers from all over the world. He has been treating mountaineers who are suffering from AMS. It really shows the Filipino spirit and values," Valdez said in a satellite phone call to the Inquirer.

Among Esguerra's recent patients were Israeli, Belgian and South African

DOC TED A12

A2 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Some Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly sunny days with isolated rainshower or thunderstorm. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

—LORIE VARIAS

Second FRONTPAGE

Your say in your headlines: inquirer.com.ph/letters/frontpage or 1207 (Globe) or 891 (Smart)

'Make communism illegal again'

By Yoselo Dejan, PDI Central Luzon, and Norman Bordadora in Manila

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—ARMY Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan suggested yesterday a new law be passed outlawing the Communist Party of the Philippines and sympathetic organizations, saying their influence had grown in recent years and that repealing the old anti-subversion law was a mistake.

The commander of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division (Id) Operation such a law was necessary because "the influence of the enemy has grown big" and "they support the government's and (its agency) campaign.

Asked if he thought the repeal of Republic Act No. 1700, or the Anti-Subversion Law, in 1994 was a mistake, Palparan replied, "Yes." He said this enabled formation of the Communist Party of the Philippines to infiltrate the government through party-list organizations.

"There's (not) but there's doing illegal activities," Palparan said, citing the military's allegations of a tactical alliance among the CPP-NPA, party-list organizations and other opposition groups to topple the Arroyo administration.

"They have to draw the demarcation line of who (the) really are or it's better for them to go back to the hills," Palparan said.

"I would be happy if" communist leaders would be outlawed again," said Palparan, a self-styled rebel hunter accused by leftist groups of being behind more 300 cases of human rights violations...including executions of suspected rebels—in Samar, Eastern and Central Luzon.

While Palparan met with reporters here a group of peasants and agrarian reform advocates gathered in Quezon City yesterday that the Arroyo administration was pushing reforms in the legal struggle back to the moment with the continued slaying of militants in the countryside.

Evangeline Mendoza, a member of the national executive council of the Pambansang Ugnayan ng mga Nagsasaka ng Lokal ng Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (Unidos), said many of the group's members had been getting why they were being targeted by alleged military agents when they were trying to advocate change through legal means.

"Many of us also came from the Left. We gave up the armed struggle so we and achieve change through legal means, but today here are now asking us why they are still being killed," Mendoza said in a press conference.

Crying as she spoke, Mendoza added, "Life is quite difficult in the countryside. The time will come that we will come again take up arms against the present" ...

Dimaku said a fact documented 23 killings of its members since 2004. The highest ranking Bicolo leader killed was its secretary general, Enrico Cabanar, who was shot to death by assassins in Davao del Norte on April 24.

"Ako'd be all the more frustrated to go back to the mountains if we have a secretary of justice like Raul Gonzalez who even dares militants to get back to the mountains," Mendoza said.

Francisco Ilusorio, chair of the group Lahar ng Mayo, said the military, particularly Palparan, was having so much difficulty winning the war against the insurgency that it was instead committing atrocities in the legal arena.

Ilusorio said Richard Scott Ty Alcober, Mendoza's daughter's boyfriend who is also a member of the left-and the communist underground, was a friend from was back but he had a valid acquisition and was spreading the theory that the Left itself was behind the killings of the activists.

On August City, the Gwyllbert Hidalgo's defense asked its attorneys to step down following the killings of militants in Southern and Central Luzon. A CPA statement said Hidalgo admits, a member of a counter group, was the subject of the killings by soldiers. **Rich a report from Dr**vine Galace, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

JDV unhappy over slow train

By Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA JR. disappointed with the progress of the Charter change train engines that seem to have been stopped in its tracks by disagreements over the mode of changing the 1987 Constitution.

De Venecia, who was in Iloilo visiting yesterday to welcome visiting Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, told reporters that the House committee on constitutional amendments and its former counterpart would finally meet on Wednesday.

"It [meeting] should have been done immediately," he lamented.

Both the Senate and the House committees agreed to hold a dialogue on how to go about Charter change during Tuesday's Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) meeting in Malacañang.

But since that meeting, the two committees, chaired respectively by Sen. Richard Gordon and Rep. Lorenzo Tañada, had yet to convene.

Gordon and Tañada were tasked to conduct a dialogue to decide the mode to start on Charter change due to the Senate's opposition to the House Charter proposals.

Malacañang also warned impatient Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Manuel Roxas II to "cooling their heels on the unlawful outcome of the dialogue" between the two committees.

Gordon said the first dialogue would be held on Wednesday.

On Friday, Gordon welcomed the reported agreement of the Senate committee on his committee's position that Congress could amend the Constitution without convening itself into a constituent assembly.

Gordon said this would finally lay to rest the controversy on his committee's position that Congress could amend the Constitution without convening itself into a constituent assembly.

"We have agreed to try to thrash out our differences with another local diplomatic measure. Let's talk first and get the ball done," Gordon said.

"The Senate's position is that we begin at 0 (Charter) to avoid not finishing our hard-working dialogue. The House will proceed at its position on Cha-cha in the proper time during the dialogue," Malacañang said.

But Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, one of the House leaders in Charter change, reminded them that the Senate position was unconstitutional.

Lagman cited a 1967 Supreme Court ruling that "the power to amend the Constitution is to propose amendments thereto is not limited to the general power of legislation possessed by Congress." PDI reports from *Philip C. Tubeza, Michael Lim Ubay* and Norman Bordadora

BIGGEST MALL OPENS

President Macapagal-Arroyo is greeted by SM chair Henry Sy (second from right) and his wife Felicidad Sy (beside Ms Arroyo) at the inauguration yesterday of the Mall of Asia, the largest shopping complex in Southeast Asia built on land reclaimed in the northward area of Manila Bay. Looking on are Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales (third from right) and Mayor Sy (r, bright). AFP PHOTO/ROLEX DELA PEÑA

OIC calls for release in aid of talks

DAVAO—THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC Conference yesterday called for the release of jailed Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari to help the progress of the peace talks in Mindanao.

Misuari, jailed for a short-lived rebellion in 2001, is necessary for the peace talks to progress, said Sayed Kassem El-Masry, adviser to the OIC secretary and head of the OIC delegation visiting Mindanao.

"We are appealing to the government of the Philippines to release Misuari. We honestly think that his participation will be a catalyst to the peace process and that (his release) will help the process move forward," El-Masry said.

But he stressed that the OIC assured the release of Misuari to be within the confines of law and judicial process.

Government peace adviser Jesus Dureza agreed with El-Masry, adding that Misuari's case would have to go through the judicial process.

"The President cannot just tell the judge that Misuari be freed," Dureza said.

El-Masry said releasing Misuari would help boost the effectiveness of a peace accord that Misuari's Muslim opposition Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) signed with the government in 1996.

The MNLF is recognized by the OIC as the representative of the Philippines' Muslim minority although an MNLF breakaway group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is embarking in one peace talks with the government.

After the peace accord, Misuari was installed governor of the Muslim autonomous region in Mindanao—and many of his fighters were absorbed into the military and police.

But after the government refused to back him for another term, Misuari led a rebellion in 2001 that left more than 100 dead. He was captured in Malaysia and is facing charges over rebellion.

The OIC delegation earlier visited Misuari as part of its mission to mediate the implementation of the peace treaty and look into possible violations by both the government and the Muslim rebels. AFP

Nene belittles 'JDV medal'

A FAKE MEDAL, OR JUST A WORTHLESS RE-mission?

Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday answered on visiting Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo the Grand Medal of Achievement, commending his leadership that brought the West African country from destitution to economic prosperity.

De Venecia conferred the award on the second day of Obiang's four-day state visit to the Philippines, in ceremonies attended by senior leaders of the House of Representatives and members of the ad hoc Committee on Awards.

But the Speaker's gesture was roundly criticized by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., who said the medal de Venecia awarded to Mbasogo and other dignitaries ahead of him was counterfeited.

Pimentel said the medal was "an embarrassment to misrepresentation because no counterpart Senate resolution signified the medal had been committed from Congress.

"The speaker should stop using the word congressional to describe the medal he has been awarding to whoever catches his fancy. The Senate in particular has not authorized such a medal," he said.

Pimentel, a retired lawyer, said de Venecia should refrain from awarding the so-called Congressional Medal of Achievement. He [he should just call it House of Representatives medal to be cast like," he said.

The senator-to Mbasogo said, "On coming to power, the latter installed political pressures, dismissed all the branches of government, dismantled constitutional rights."

It further said: "The World Bank had praised his administration on his country's resources, as well as its achievements in the country, despite the pockets of its natural wealth. The assistance was reversed by the International Monetary Fund in March 2006." *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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FUNDS FOR GUIMAUGON STUDENTS
US-based Filipino organizations—the Mission of Mercy led by Fr. Leo Maraño, the Council of Filipino Organizations of Tidewater headed by Dr. Manny Hipol and the Marya-Waray Association of Tidewater headed by Mido Villalon—donated $14,500 to the Department of Education in Eastern Visayas for its Project Guimaugon Tabang Kabataan, a scholarship program for student-survivors of the Guimaugon landslide. Photo shows Flor Velasco Villanis (left), a PMRET trustee, handing over a check to Dep Ed Assistant Regional Director Alberto Escudero (right).

Signatures in Capiz, Gensan verified, says Sigaw ng Bayan

By Norman Bordadora and Jaruma Aning

A GROUP PUSHING FOR CHARTER CHANGE via a people's initiative yesterday claimed that the Commission on Elections had verified the necessary signatures in the province of Capiz and in Cotabato Province City.

The events in these two places have stopped the verification of signatures by local Comelec officials but lawyer Raul Lambino said signatures representing three percent of registered voters in these areas had already been verified prior to the suspensions.

Under the Constitution, a successful people's initiative for constitutional amendments must be concurred in, through signatures, by 12 percent of registered voters nationwide and three percent of registered voters in each of the more than 200 legislative districts.

"It's more and academic. We'll be ready to file a petition before the Comelec and bring before it roughly 6 million signatures this coming week," said Lambino, leader of the people's initiative group Sigaw ng Bayan.

Lambino said they were informed that the Comelec had verified the signatures of at least three percent of the registered voters in Capiz as early as April 10, and those in General Santos City by April 28.

The courts stopped the verification in Capiz in late April and in General Santos City in May, he said.

Sigaw ng Bayan had earlier claimed that the signatures in support of the people's initiative had already been verified by local Comelec officials in 90 percent of the country's 200 legislative districts.

But the Comelec said it could not confirm the claim citing figures in Sigaw.

"It's improper for us to say that. It's their (Sigaw ng Bayan's) responsibility," Comelec spokesperson James Jimmy Jimenez III said in a phone interview.

Jimenez explained that the local election officials' job as of now was limited to verifying the authenticity, not the number, of the signatures presented to them at the district level.

"We don't certify the numbers [of those who signed]. What we merely [recite here] in effect is the authenticity of the signatures," he said.

Jimenez added that it was up to the proponents to reveal the status of the verification because the petition for initiative had not yet been filed with the Comelec.

He added that once the Comelec was allowed to entertain the petition, only then could it determine and reveal if the constitutional requirement for the initiative were met.

Jimenez said the Comelec was likely to receive the petition once it was filed, but "whether the Comelec en banc would take cognizance of it is another matter."

Senators to realign 'slush funds' in 2006 budget

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS HAVE PROPOSED questionable appropriations in the House-approved 2006 national budget and are looking at realigning these "slush funds," including a suggested P1 billion e-government fund, to the least politicized departments.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the Senate committee on finance, said yesterday that most of the senators' proposed amendments covered in an questionable "lump sum appropriations."

"Definitely we have made amendments to the House approved version. We will correct some questionable lump sum appropriations," Villar said in a statement.

The proposals will be incorporated in the Senate budget proposal, according to Villar, who will sponsor the P1-trillion national budget for 2006 on Monday to kick off plenary debates on the measure.

Sen. Ruffy Lacson said he had proposed scrutinizing the P1 billion e-government fund, among other items, and redistributing it to the Department of Science and Technology, and Department of Interior and Local Government, for instance.

"This is a new entry in the budget. As far as I'm concerned, this is nothing but a pork barrel of the President. Who is going to benefit from this? Only they will benefit from this," Lacson said in an interview, referring to the President's allies.

Of the amount, some P75 million was allocated to the administration-dominated House of Representatives, according to the senator.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, on the other hand, wants the P5 billion Kalayaan Barangay Fund and the P1.64 billion Ellice Aurroz fund, very new items in the budget, to be deleted.

"These pork barrel funds can all be deleted," Drilon said in an interview (sic, however), said that he was open to realigning these funds to the DOST "where we can better utilize them."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has also proposed the transfer of these "politically partisan slush funds" to the DOST, the least prioritized but the best agency to invest technology any on tapping alternative fuels.

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RP Olympic boxer killed in Iraq

LAS VEGAS—AP 32, FORMER PHILIPPINE Olympic boxer Emmanuel "Manny" Legaspi was older than the typical recruit when he signed up for the US Army in 2004.

He had lived in the United States for only a year, but wanted a chance to share his top-provisioned living in America, his wife Donna said.

"He didn't want anyone to question his patriotism," said Donna, before a Thursday memorial service for her husband, who was shot and killed in combat May 7 in Tal Afar, Iraq.

Legaspi, 36, a staff sergeant, left behind his wife and a 6-month-old daughter.

The Legaspis moved from the Philippines to Las Vegas in 1999 to join Donna's mother, Victoria.

Legaspi had worked as a lifeguard and electrical lineman technician before enlisting and completing a first tour of duty in Iraq.

He returned home and the Legaspi daughter, Carmen, was born in November. In January, he was deployed again to Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, based in Friedberg, Germany.

"He was such a unique and special individual, and I'm really glad I got to spend that time with him," Donna said.

Legaspi, a middleweight, lost his first Olympic bout in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea. On Thursday, his wife and mother each received Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals posthumously awarded by the US military.

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Prosecution to present 35 witnesses in Subic case

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By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE LAWYERS PROSECUTING FOUR US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport last year plan to present 35 witnesses and nearly as many pieces of documentary evidence to prove their allegations when the case goes on trial.

During a preliminary conference at the Manila Regional Trial Court last Friday, the prosecution gave the clerk of court and defense lawyers a list of the people they plan to subpoena who will testify against Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpenter and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood, Daniel Smith and Dominic Duplantis, who have been charged with raping the woman aboard a cruising van last May 1.

Burden of proof

"That's the job of the prosecution—to prove the crime beyond reasonable doubt," lead private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua told reporters as she explained the proceedings. "That's why it's normal for the prosecution to have that many witnesses, and when these are witnesses that we could present, we would maximize that because the burden of proof is really with us."

Defense lawyer Jose Anotnio, counsel for Silkwood, requested no surprises at the prosecution's witness list, saying that what matters in the end is what they have to say.

Not about numbers

"We are not impressed. It's not about numbers. What we are talking about here is what they will say, whether it's important or not," said Antonio, whose only piece of evidence is a Silkwood's affidavit denying the accusation.

While they did not name the witnesses they would present, other defense lawyers said in court that they would present the state's counterpart of Carpenter, Smith and Duplantis, to which it is their turn to rebut the allegations. The defense would also use the second sworn statement of Director Jovito S. Jr., the Filipino driver of the van where the alleged rape took place.

Antonio retracted an earlier statement in which he described the alleged rape and signed a second sworn statement denying having witnessed the incident. Antonio said he merely drove the Marines into the establishment were nothing unlawful was brought from point Philippines' US military enclave.

Antonio was also on the prosecution's witness list, although Ursua said the panel had yet to inform him that he would be presented as their witness.

List of evidence

"There's really what is done during a preliminary conference: You list all the evidence and witnesses you are going to present...all that you could list down, because later they might be excluded during trial," Ursua said.

Also to take the stand will be the alleged rape victim herself, identified only as "Nicole" to be media to protect her identity.

Other witnesses to be presented are doctors and psychiatrists, Olongapo City crime investigators, evidence custodians of the Philippine National Police crime laboratories in Olongapo and at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, and individuals who saw the victim at Subic's duty free, where she was allegedly dumped after the rape.

"You will discover in the course of the trial, who would give important testimonies...What we did was we listed everyone who had knowledge about the incident, either before, during or after the incident," said Ursua.

The prosecution and defense panels are expected to discuss the trial schedule in another conference on Monday.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR FROM ESA IS HOT, NEW FASHION RETAILER.

Entrepreneurs School of Asia (ESA) students have successful businesses before graduating college.

As a child, Marisol Rivera, was always fascinated with fashion but for most of her life it was just an interest. Last month, however, Marisol entered the fashion industry and had a soft launch of her own clothing line - ANGI, (pronounced as Angel) at Robinsons Department Store in Manila. Her launch target markets are female teens and young females. In one month, ANGI has become part of the top 20 brands being sold by the store. And, the department store has already asked her to begin supplying to their other branches.

Marisol Rivera's products on display at Robinsons Department Store

As a B.S. Entrepreneurship student in the Entrepreneurs School of Asia (ESA), Marisol not only acquired the business tools and knowledge but more importantly realized her passion and transformed it into a business. Armed with the entrepreneurial skills and mindset from ESA, she is now on her way to become the next big thing in Philippine fashion.

"I didn't really think I could have my own apparel business, and start succeeding, even before I graduated from college" **Marisol Rivera, Student Entrepreneur**

Taking on the responsibility of setting up and managing their own business at such an early age makes ESA students more mature, decisive and confident. This gives them a clear advantage over their peers. Marisol Rivera is one of the 50 most student entrepreneur graduates of ESA for 2006.

ESA Programs Overview

Masters Progression Pathway
Qualified graduates of the B.S Entrepreneurship Program have the option to automatically progress to a Master's Program offered by ESA's partner universities in the UK, Australia and the USA. In a minimum of one (1) year, students will be able to graduate with a master's degree.

PHILIPPINE CAMPUS

B.S. Entrepreneurship
The program is a three-year intensive degree program conducted over nine (9) trimesters. Students are expected to have successfully started an enterprise and to implement their existing family business by the time they graduate from the program.

B.S Business Administration
The program is a three-year intensive program conducted over nine (9) trimesters. Students who graduate from the program will have acquired business tools and knowledge with a concentration, and developed entrepreneurial skills and attitudes necessary in any business organization.

CHINA CAMPUS

The ESA opened its China campus and may 2006 in partnership with the Zhejiang Government in China. Located in Hangzhou City the leisure capital of China, ESA will offer programs not only for college students but for entrepreneurs and executives as well.

Flexible Programs
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The Entrepreneurs School of Asia is located at No. 27 Calle Industria, Libis, Quezon City with telephone numbers 638-1188 or 634-1188. For more information, visit the website at www.entrepreneur.edu.ph.

ESA
ENTREPRENEURS SCHOOL of ASIA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 21, 2006
6th Sunday of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Baptism of Cornelius's

At First I am about to enter. Cornelius went to him, fell on his knees and bowed down. But Peter lifted him up saying, "Stand up, for I too am a human being."

Peter then spoke up and said, "Truly, I realize that God does not show favoritism, but in all nations he is open to everyone who fears God and does good."

Peter was still speaking when the Holy Spirit came upon all who listened to the Word. And the believers of Jewish origin who had come with Peter were amazed, "What? God gives and pours the Holy Spirit on foreigners also?" For indeed this happened, they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter declared, "Can we refuse to baptize with water these people who have received the Holy Spirit, just as we have?" So he had them baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain with them for many days.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Love is of God

My dear friends, let us love one another for love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Those who do not love have not known God, for God is love.

This is the love of God appear amongst us: God sent his only Son into this world that we might have life through him.

This is love: not that we loved God but rather that he loved us and sent his Son as an offering for our sins.

Gospel: Jn 15:9-17

Stay united in love

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, to give one's life for one's friends, and you are my friends if you do what I command you.

"I shall not tell you anymore my name, because servants do not know what their master is about. Instead I have called you friends, since I have made known to you everything I learned from my Father.

"You did not choose me; it was I who chose you and sent you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. And everything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

"This is my commandment: that you love one another."

Commentary

After Jesus's crucified Jesus said to his disciples, the Spirit comes again for today and expresses the new beginning. They are baptized in the Spirit first, followed by water. It seems the order of these actions is not.

The power of the Word is unfailing. It is this Word that gives knowledge of God, and that knowledge is given by God's love. Love is the power that is manifested in suffering in our midst, in word, sacrament, community. In pain. We are called friends of God if we obey the commands of Jesus, even to laying down death, as he did with us. Jesus is the true image of the Father in which we find an exact reminder that we have been chosen and that we are to bear fruit in the world. Always, it seems, desire to love one another as I have loved you.

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BARAGATAN 2006

May 22 - June 2

THE annual convergence of Palaweños and all those who love Palawan and enjoy its pristine beauty starts tomorrow, May 22 with the Barugatan Festival.

For the first time since the festival started six years ago, this year's Barugatan Festival will be held independently of the commemoration of the founding anniversary of the establishment of the Palawan civil government. "We want our Barugatan Festival to have its own identity, separate from the founding anniversary of the civil government which we will continue to observe and celebrate every June 23," explains Gov. Joel T. Reyes. "Barugatan is our provincial festival and this is one occasion when Palaweños coming from the 23 municipalities including the City of Puerto Princesa come together in one convergence area for a festive cultural gathering," the Governor adds.

The Capitol Park Square, a major infrastructure project of Gov. Reyes which is part of the Provincial Capitol Complex in Puerto Princesa City, serves as the main venue of the festival that will run from May 22 to June 2, 2006. It will be a 12-day event of myriad activities from cultural presentations, trade fairs featuring the best of Palawan's agricultural products, processed foods, arts and crafts, and souvenir items to sports competitions, dance and musical contests and government services.

Highlight of tomorrow's opening activities are the Float Parade and the *Pasiyaan sa Barugatan*, a new event that will be a showdown of local officials as they present their town festival in a dance parade.

Like most Philippine festivals, Palawan's Barugatan, will also have its own introducing competition which is locally known as the *Sarasiao sa Dalan*. For this year, participants in the *Sarasiao sa Dalan* will compete for the best rendition and performance of the *Cayasao Ati-Ati*, a parade dance originating from the island municipality of Cuyo.

Barugatan comes from the Cuyonon root word, *bagat*, which means to meet, to gather, to converge in one place. It is a term that appropriately depicts the essence of the provincial festival.

Governor Reyes says that with this year's innovations, the Barugatan will have a more defined identity of its own that will truly mirror the culture and the aspirations of Palaweños.

schedule of activities

Tour of Palawan (Cycling Competition) • May 16 - 24 Governor Joel T. Reyes Golf Cup • May 21
Float Parade & Pamigayan sa Barugatan • May 22 Handog ng Kalinisan sa Mamamayang Palaweño • May 22
LGU Cultural Show • May 22 - 25 Basketball Friendship Games • May 22 - 28 Palawan Pop Idol • May 23
Jobs Fair • May 25 - 26 2nd Gov. Joel T. Reyes Inter-Media Basketball Tournament • April 25 - May 28
Mustong Taog & Dance Craze Competitions • May 26 Region IV New Face Taekwondo Championship • May 27
2nd Governor's Cup Shooting Competition • May 27 TLDC Caravan - Seminar on Swine & Poultry Raising • May 27
1st Gov. Joel T. Reyes Badminton Challenge • May 26 - 28 Barugatan Battle of the Bands • May 28
Boxing Tournament • May 28 - June 01 Tennis Tournament • May 29 - June 02
Hidalan Mo! Sa Kanta at Sayaw! • May 29 BEARS Convention • May 29 - 30
7th Annual Convention, Ligo ng mga Barangay (Province) • May 30 - June 01
Mutya ng Palawan Talent Night • May 31
Barugatan T ang mga Santo (Conference of the Saints) • May 31
Mutya ng Palawan Coronation Night • June 01 Old Passporting • May 30 - June 02
Sarasiao sa Dalan (Street Dancing) Closing Program / Party sa Parke / Fireworks • June 03
and many more...!

12-day long activities

Caravan sa Barugatan • TLDC Caravan 2006 • Garden Show •
Private Trade Fair • LGU Trade Fair • Photo Contest

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PIO

Fr. Reuter: Honorary Pinoy still dreams at 90

From page A1

He could hardly walk and by evening, he had to be rushed to the hospital's ICU where he stayed for four days.

"This is not good," he recalls the doctor telling his former students who were all grandchildren.

Soon there was a deluge of text messages from friends and loved ones, all expressing fear that the old man's time had come.

"Many thought I was dying," Reuter says.

He survived the ordeal and has had no big scare since.

Lumpia lover

Fortunately, the experience did not saddle him with heavy medications, save for four-monthly maintenance drugs, one of which is a vitamin and another for his arthritis.

"There are no dietary restrictions since he's been practicing microbiotal discipline all his life on an Armelicon, he says he's not really a lover of steak, sarsiya, pork, corn and soup. A Filipino at heart, he also loves lumpia (spring rolls).

Taking no chances, Reuter's cardiologist, who's also a man, ordered an oxygen tank an standby in his office at all times. He says he runs it when he's sleeping or resting at his desk.

Reuter is in bed by 9 p.m. and up by 5 a.m. Three times weekly he rises at 2:30 a.m. to write his weekly columns for a newspaper as well as his sermons and reflections.

Two-fold formula

"It's not as crazy as it looks," he says. "My energy is highest early in the morning."

Reuter owes his durability to a two-fold formula.

"One, work with young people. Two, don't stop," he says. "I noticed that so many of my contemporaries—when they stopped volunteering or busy they were doing, they went into a decline."

By young people, he means nursery or elementary school kids who have issues that make subjects and audiences of 25 of his priests.

Some of these plays will appear in "Legacy," a collection of 12 plays he wrote for stage, radio, television, as well as some of his reflections.

The compilation, a tribute to Silanes by members of the Ateneo College Glee Club, which the priest put up in 1953, will be launched on his birthday today.

Last February, Reuter divorced some 150 children in "The Flight Before Christmas," a play he wrote a long time ago about children pay on he born who remained in the mind of God.

As in the past, he read and recorded each line for every role and gave a copy to each of the participants.

Busier than ever

"Technically, they've not yet reached the age of reason, but they're smart," he says. "They can't read yet so you must see them from the script. So I record all the whole thing, read all the roles, and they listened to them and rehearsed them."

He would have loved to show the children how they were supposed to act in every scene but his arthritis didn't allow him to do so. Instead, he "trained a trainer" by tapping one artist and coaching him how the acting should be done.

Unfinished dreams

The play, mounted at the James H. Reuter Theater at St. Paul's University in Quezon City was a huge hit.

It will be restaged in New Jersey in December.

"It's very strange. Because I keep dreaming. I never was before," he says.

Much of Reuter's passion is in radio and television.

Having led the National Office of Mass Media in coordinating the conduct of all 69 Catholic radio stations, including television programs, the priest says he still has some unfinished business.

He wants TV Maria to take off the ground running."

TV Maria is a new Catholic station designed to propagate the faith and Church teachings through the powerful medium of television.

He is not satisfied that the station on Dream Satellite has only eight hours of fresh programming, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. The same programs are replayed to cover the 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and the 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. slots.

Reuter's sentiments are understandable. For half a century, he has been using the media—radio, TV and print—to spread the Catholic faith.

In the process, he has reached the "highest and low realms" with the people. He knows they're no headless wanderers.

"I think Filipinos are rich in the treasures of the spirit," he says.

THE UNFINISHED DREAM: To make TV Maria, a new Catholic station, to get off the ground running and steadily

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Like teflon, GMA . . .

From page A1

Administration lawmakers promptly challenged the opposition. "Sa unibersidad namin wasak ito pagdating nito" (At our university, it would be dismissed more speedily than the cases filed last year.

Like teflon

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Eduardo Gonzalez, Lakas, Bicol Sol, said they opposed the new complaint to have a very done one because the country had grown tired of the spate of damaging accusations that then said were based only on fabricated evidence.

"They already threw atomic bombs against the President amidst a well-funded, concerted and extremely vicious campaign last year and where did that get them? Nada. Zero," Nograles said.

The implication is that like teflon, ridiculous, no matter how vile, don't stick to the Arroyo.

"They can continue to do their worst, but we are confident that the Arroyo administration will remain standing," he added.

Nograles noted that the President and her family had been accused of having secret multibillion-peso funds overseas and money laundering operations, of complicity in jueteng and illegal government transactions, and election fraud but these accusations did not succeed in getting her impeached.

He added that filing an impeachment complaint without having the necessary number of votes in the House to have the President impeached now "is a great disservice to the nation."

"To file an impeachment case just to shake up the nation without making sure of the numbers is a great disservice to the nation. We have better things to do in Congress," Nograles said.

Media blitz

Barreiros said the opposition had aired their accusations in "massive media blitzes featuring privilege speeches, press conferences, impeachment complaints and congress resolutions and various stage managed issues and rallies in an attempts to sway the people in a popular revolt against the President."

But despite these "well-funded campaigns," Barreiros said the administration was able to weather the storm and was even "in the process of restoring its fallen approval rating amidst the people's growing disenchantment with destructive politics and black propaganda tactics from the opposition."

The lawmaker added: "The latest surveys are already indicating what we had been hearing from our constituents since last year, that our people are already sick and tired of all these opposition shenanigans, which only have the net effect of making them lose further because of reduced business confidence and divergence to reality."

Barreiros said this "growing disenchantment with political insincerity" had led him to believe that any new impeachment cases to be filed this year would "even be more speedily dispatched this time around."

"We will give any and all impeachment complaints found to be sufficient in form due course. But the way things are shaping up, I feel that the opposition's new political comrades 'approach will have a very short run," Barreiros said.

Another Da Vinci

Stricter in Malacañang shaking

in icy boots despite threats from the opposition to drop the bombshell of a renewed impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Gabriel Claudio said the bombshell was no different from the so-called books in a one-person film like "The Da Vinci Code." He said the impeachment case was being primed to be the stage from which to launch the opposition's campaign for the 2007 elections.

Madrid 2007 election

"All of them have their own definition of a bombshell and ways on how to create surprises. It's probably just in keeping with the season since 'The Da Vinci Code' is now showing. It's their way of creating some thrills," said Claudio in a radio interview.

He added that the most likely motive of the opposition was the upcoming 2007 election.

"[The year] 2007 is fast coming. The opposition is probably monitoring this closely though they have no chance of winning because they want a forum or stage where they can be in the public eye for their ambition in 2007. There is somebody there who wants to run for senator, and he wants to be on television," Claudio said.

Claudio said the Palace was confident that the opposition could not come up with any serious agains the President that would justify the filing of another impeachment case. He also noted that the ranks of the administration remained to swell in the House of Representatives and that would only mean more votes against an impeachment.

He also said that the opposition's threat to eject those who refuse to sign the impeachment complaint from the minority ranks was a "sign of immaturity."

"It shows that they themselves are not sure about what they are doing. It has reached a point that even before they reach their adversaries, they are already using intimidation," Claudio said.

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SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2006

Unregistered firm's owner faces tax raps

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) on Friday charged the owner of an unregistered construction company with tax evasion for failure to pay P13.46 million in income and value-added taxes from 2001 to 2004.

Charged by the BIR before the Department of Justice was Richard Santos of Horseshoe Village, Quezon City, owner of Immaculate/San Constantino Services and/or Bad Construction Services, Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Santos was charged with failure to register his business, issuing unregistered official receipts and invoices, failure to remit taxes withheld, and failure to file and pay income taxes/VAT during the four-year period.

BIR investigators claimed that Santos deliberately did not register his company with the BIR before undertaking several construction projects with private companies such as Nova Outdoor Inc., Container Board Packaging Corp., Olympia Housing and System Across Phils. Inc., and failed to pay the required annual registration fees in violation of the Tax Code.

The BIR also found that Santos' company withheld taxes from a P38.84 million contract with a subcontractor named Sta Ursula Corp. which undertook the construction of a packaging plant owned by Container Board and Packaging Phils. Inc., but never remitted the withheld taxes to the BIR.

As circumstances, the BIR said, Santos was obliged to declare all income derived from whatever sources and pay the corresponding taxes which she failed to do in the four years.

Cynthia D. Rebong

Supreme Court Doctrines

LEGAL ETHICS: Motion to transmit is service to client - The fact that the counsel of petitioners submitted no record a copy of the decision and an undelivered service unit of Investigators are exact similar than a copy of the trial court decision had earlier been sent by registered mail to counsel which was returned by the messenger that he had moved. This is sufficient service of the decision on petitioners since service upon counsel of record at his given address is service to petitioners. This is sufficient service of the decision on petitioners since service upon counsel of record at his given address is service to petitioners. The rule is that when a party is represented by counsel in an action in court, notices of all kinds including motions, pleadings and orders must be served on the counsel. And notice to such counsel is notice to the client. Notice sent to counsel of record is binding upon the client and the neglect or failure of counsel to inform him of an adverse judgment resulting in the loss of his right to appeal is not a ground for setting aside a judgment, valid and regular in its face. (Catalino Quimzon, Jr. v. Justice Antonio Eduardo B. Nachura, Second Division, GOP Mercury Transport Services, Inc. v. Pascua, G. R. No. 141446, November 11, 2000) R.R.B. Vitto

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Pinoys' Everest feat thrills RP community in Nepal

By Frank Cimaco
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE NATION was on top of the world with the success of the Filipino mountaineer on Mt. Everest, but no less thrilled and proud were the members of the small Filipino community in the Kingdom of Nepal.

"We were so proud of our team, and we were so proud to be part of it," said Alice Shalaya, who owns the Namaste department store, one of the biggest in the capital city of Katmandu, and the Namaste shop in Baguio.

Although there were only a few of us in Nepal, we tried to make the most feel at home and not get homesick," said Alice, who is married to Aman Shalaya, a Nepalese metal craft artist and trader.

Alice accompanied five mountaineers of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition—team leader Sergio Pablo and members Eduardo Jimenez, Janet Belarmino, Levi Nakaegawa and Noelle Wenceslao—back to the country last week.

According to Alice, about 100 Filipinos, mostly scholars and missionaries, currently live in Nepal.

She said these permanently staying there and those who had married locals numbered only 20—"and we all doubled to be the extended family of our climbers."

"We gave them Filipino food—adobo and sinigang. Their favorite was pakete, which is hard to get in Nepal because there is rarely any fish there. I had to use my connections," she said.

'Malasitsy'

The team members greatly appreciated the gesture.

Petrus PINEDE, member Hiamalayan Trust, "Malasitsy is his thing: "Malasitsy ang Petrus dinmod. We met people from Tagaytay, Nueva Ecija, Cebu, Cagayan, Davao, Baguio, Kayapa-Lamut and others that I may have missed. They prepared sinigang, dinguisan, pares, crocodile [and many more]. Pinoy food [is easily delivered], especially after a week of dhal bhat, momo, and ramen [and other] Nepali food."

Alice said the Filipino community in Katmandu and most of the stores were closed, Nation-wide.

"The good thing was, the Filipino community here in Nepal again hosted a wonderful dinner party for the team. A lot of Filipino food was prepared. Like, the pochero was really delicious. I guess wherever you are, the spirit of Filipino hospitality goes with you," he wrote.

Vinegar

Alice said the strongest food request came from Wenceslao.

"Noelle wanted vinegar. Give me coke and chewing [fish paste] and it will be happy" area what she said," Alice recalled.

Donna Burgos, who owns an expedition and travel agency in Timaul, helped the team get permits, equipment and lifelong.

Alice said she was happy not only for Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pulay" Emata, the first two Filipinos to reach the summit, but also for expedition leader Antoni Valdez and PINEDE member Fred Jandi.

"They told us it was their dream since they were very young to climb Mt. Everest, but that they decided that the young ones should do it for them. It is very they got their dream. It was also our dream because we never thought of climbing Everest," Alice said.

She added: "I was saddened only with Boni Cardoza [the third Filipino to reach the summit]. He did not contact us Filipinos. He could have helped him.

"The PINEDE members] promised to be back, and they were hoping that a Filipina would be at the top [of Everest next time]."

Palace: No to mining ban, yes to foreign ownership

From page A1

from the members of Congress about this," Cazzolla said. "I don't think we should be hasty to have any conclusion on what legislative moves should be done."

Palace cancels presserv

The Mining Act had stirred controversy because it allowed for the first time foreign companies to have a stake in mineral exploration and production in the country.

The commission's chair, Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna, was to have held a press conference in Malacañang on Friday on his group's recommendation but this was rescinded at the last minute because Palace officials did not agree with its sweeping indictment of foreign mining investments in the country.

Baclao, instead, held his press conference outside the Palace.

Azcuna said Mr Arroyo thanked the commission for its work and then she assured the public that its findings and advice would be "carefully reviewed and considered."

Environmental groups have welcomed the backfooting over the commission's recommendations.

"We hope President Arroyo will listen to the clamor of the people of Albay and Surigao province... Keep the mines in Rapu Rapu closed at the expense environmental, social and economic impacts on the communities far enough the alleged benefits," Greenpeace Senior campaigner Nonn Bacungan said.

Flagship project

She said it was clear from the start that the P1.4-billion Rapu Rapu polymetallic project, once dubbed the flagship of the administration's program to revive the mining industry, threatened marine life in nearby bodies of water.

She said the government should have a team of experts to study that Lafayette's application has cleaned up and rehabilitated the mine site and the surrounding marine areas.

"Moving forward will be necessary given numerous warning full accountabilities from Lafayette and pending government officials," Bacungan said.

Loss of 1,800 jobs

Defend Philippines, a network of mining groups, said the government should not cave in to Lafayette's mandate that the results of its project would result in the loss of $250 million in investments and about 1,000 jobs.

"The commission validates the concerns of the people that the LPL operation will do more harm than good to the environment and people," Defend Philippines spokesperson Tricia Concepcion said.

She said the commission's report validated the position of Rabulik, church people, environmental groups, local government officials, local businessmen and scientists against mining operations.

No test run

"The only way to save and rehabilitate the environment and the people of Rapu Rapu is to permanently close Lafayette and to enact a moratorium on mining in the island," Concepcion said.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes has rejected Lafayette's request for a test run of its gold processing plant, saying he would wait for the recommendation of the commission.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources suspended the gold processing operation of Lafayette last year and fined the company P10.7 million for its alleged violation of the Clean Water Act.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, in a pastoral letter last January, called for the repeal of the Mining Act, saying that it "destroys life." The bishops expressed concern over the "irreparable damage" being caused by large-scale mining operations to the people's livelihood and health and to the environment.

Huge nickel reserves

"The experiences of environmental tragedies and incidents with the mining transnational corporations belie all assurances of sustainable and responsible mining that the former administration is claiming," the bishops said.

Besides having gold, silver, copper and silver minerals, the Philippines is believed to have 25 percent of the world's known nickel reserves, according to industry experts.

Estimates as of 2004 put at $1 trillion the worth of the country's mineral resources.

P57 billion revenues if ...

Local mining industry officials have said that the revitalization of the industry, which had become a decline for the past 20 years, could yield about P57 billion in additional revenues for the government.

The Philippines can be one of the richest countries in the region if only it can get its act together and harness its mining potential," Leo Cantelo, general manager of mining firm Crew Group Philippines, wrote in the business last February. With a report from Jhaneli G. Rivera

Daughter of first Sherpa on Everest married Pinoy

From page A1

"It's my father always said, teamwork is the secret. Without teamwork, you cannot make it," she said.

Marriage to a Filipino

Unknown to many, Tenzing Norgay's daughter married a Filipino and lived in Quezon City where she learned the language "enough to haggle in the market." [They] met in Europe in the 1960s, where she then Belgium-based Nima, an employee of the Indian government, had been preparing Indian gendarmes like Darjeeling [etc.]

Nick and Nima Galang lived in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines in the course of Nick's career as a graphic artist. They had a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.

After Nick died in 2000, Nima moved to Singapore. She now spends much of her time shuttling between Singapore and Canada where her daughter lives, and traveling to other countries.

But when she was young, school vacations were usually spent trekking in the Himalayas with her father.

He was a Buddhist, which was why he viewed mountaineering as a way of honoring nature, said Nima, who recalled that climbing the peaks of the Himalayan range required a lot of courage and stamina.

"I think it's very scary because there are small places that can take [children and] the luggage to base camps. In the 1950s, we walked," she said.

Youngest at 16

Nima said she reached as high as 22,000 feet when she tried to scale Mt. Cho Oyu, or 20,750 feet the ninth highest mountain on earth.

She was then 16 years old, the youngest member of the first international women's expedition.

Nima said the ascent and descent each took three weeks. In some instances, she said, the climbing expedition would take as long as three months.

But her child was one all for it

"My father encouraged us to climb. He said it did not matter if we were girls," said Nima, the second of Tenzing Norgay's six children. [Also mother, Tenzing Norgay's first wife, died in 1964.]

The controversial British expedition on Everest in 1953 opened the world to the Sherpa mountaineer and his family.

Nima said she and her sister, Dempem, joined their father when he was awarded a medal in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London.

She said the Norgays also met with British royals during the latter's state visits to Nepal and India, where the family had a house in Darjeeling.

Tenzing Norgay died in Darjeeling on May 9, 1986.

No more mountains

Nima said she had planned to climb more mountains but that marriage to a quiet, soundless Filipino artist changed all that.

"I was not able to climb any mountain in the Philippines," she said, laughing. But she consoled herself by climbing her steps to hotel and hotels, where the family had a house in Darjeeling.

Tenzing Norgay died in Darjeeling on May 9, 1986.

No more mountains

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"I was not able to climb any mountain in the Philippines," she said, laughing. But she consoled herself by climbing her steps to hotel and hotels, where the family had a house in Darjeeling.

She also took pride in saying that her brother Jamling reached the summit of Everest in 1996, following the trail opened by their father and Hillary in 1953.

Jamling would later become the expedition leader for Sagada-born Leo Oracion in the book, "Reaching My Father's Soul—An Odyssey to the Top of Everest."

RP law firm cries GMA vendetta in HK raid, seizure

From page A1

"We want to know which government agency made the request so we can file administrative charges," an official of the law firm told the Inquirer. He requested anonymity because he said he was not authorized to speak for the firm.

"The raid is illegal, those who carried it out are in a hitting expedition," said the source.

The ICAC's raid on Romulo Mabanta Sr.'s office has been attended in Malacañang as the Hong Kong government watchdog refused to divulge the specific Philippine government agency that asked for the raid and for what purpose.

The official of the law firm said the April 12 raid had been a cause of embarrassment for the firm and upended some clients.

"Because our chairman is against the President, the government has been unfairly beating down on us," said the official.

The official was referring to one of the law firm's founding partners, Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Nicholas, who has been a thorn in President Macapagal-Arroyo's side and was the leader of a group in MBC which last year called for Mrs Arroyo's resignation.

The Romulo Mabanta firm also represented the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) in its yearlong case in Washington and Singapore seeking compensation from the government following a dispute over the titled Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

RP gov't made request

In an email reply to the Inquirer, ICAC senior press information officer Charmaine Mok said: "We understand that the government of the Philippines earlier made a request to the Hong Kong government through the Mutual Legal Assistance Unit of HK Department of Justice (DoJ)."

"The request was referred to the ICAC by DOJ in accordance with the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance. The ICAC had acted on the advice of DOJ and a search warrant was obtained from the court."

Asked to elaborate on the ICAC's objective in conducting the raid, Mok said: "It will not be appropriate for us to disclose details of the investigation which is a matter (for) the Philippine authority. I'm sorry that we are not in a position to make further comments on the case."

Gonzalez denies role

Even Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez opposed rumors over the raid.

In a phone interview, Gonzalez denied that it was his office which made the request for the raid. He said it was probably the Office of the Ombudsman that made the request in relation to the Piatco case.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez did not answer the Inquirer's calls.

Mr Arroyo's anticorruption consultant who founded the ICAC in 1974, Tony Kwok, did not reply to the Inquirer's queries.

In her email, Mok said Romulo Mabanta authorities "duly filed an ex parte application for leave to judicial review, or an injunction to stop the transmission of seized documents to the Philippines. This was granted by a High Court judge on May 12.

Documents seized sealed

"The judge reserved decision over the jurisdiction to challenge the validity of the search warrants. The judge instead seemed from both sides to file written submissions on whether the court has jurisdiction to quash the search warrant," Mok said.

The court's injunction would keep under seal for the meantime the documents seized from the law office.

The law firm (seized) that ICAC's search warrants was unlawful because it was issued for which (Romulo Investors (a Romulo Mabanta subsidiary), which shared the same office with the law firm.

Privilege material

The law firm argued that the ICAC seized materials that belonged to Romulo Mabanta and not to RMBSA Corp., and that these documents contained privileged material of its clients, including Piatco.

The source expressed belief that the raid was conducted to get confidential information that would help the government's case involving Piatco and to German shareholder Fraport.

Romulo Mabanta represents Piatco in its case against the government before the International Chamber of Commerce-International Court of Arbitration in Singapore. The claims suit is parallel to the case filed by Fraport in the World Bank's International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington D.C.

Last card

"They're looking for papers that will point to graft and corruption in the construction of Nida 3, which is three last raid in the arbitration cases," the Inquirer source said.

The government legal team is focusing on the $2 million Piatco allegedly paid to Alfredo Lim,para ostensibly for public relations but which is claimed was part of a slush fund to bribe government officials.

The team has insisted that Lim's funds were coursed through the same companies that Romulo Mabanta is using Kong but the law firm has vehemently denied that Lim's cognac was a client.

Demolition job

"The government is grasping at straws. They have an evidence of graft and corruption against our client. It's not like that records of the lawyers will be opened because they do not do that in other cases," the source said.

The source believed that the raid was part of a demolition job against the law firm because its rivals financials, had led the business sector's call for Mr Arroyo's resignation.

Mr Arroyo had once referred to Romulo in a public gathering as "that Piatco lawyer."

The firm

The Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles law firm, composed of 75 lawyers, is the only Philippine member of Lex Mundi, an international network of about 160 law firms.

The firm, which has a branch in Hongkong, was cited as National Law Firm of the Year by the International Financial Law Review and the Asian Legal Business Magazine in 2005.

In 1993, it hosted then Supreme Court Justice Hugo Gutierrez to resign over allegations he did not write the supposed decision in a case involving Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Kanlaon Telecommunications Philippines Inc. With PDI Research

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Wage boards set deliberations

By Jaymana Aning

THE REGIONAL TRIPARTITE WAGES AND Productivity Boards are now ready to process petitions for wage increases filed by various labor groups, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Sto. Tomas said the wage boards would non-conduct consultations and deliberations on the wage hike petitions, adding that "President Arroyo, in her Labor Day message, explicitly expressed her support for a reasonable wage hike buttressed not by the PTWPB."

Sto. Tomas said the government cannot unilaterally adjust the needle to alleviate the burdens of Filipino workers amid the rising prices of goods and services brought about by the weakened peso as world oil prices.

On Tuesday, the moderate labor group Trade Union Congress of the Philippines filed a petition for a P75 across-the-board wage increase for members in the National Capital Region.

If approved, this would bring the minimum wage to the metropolis to P400.

TUCP president Democrito Mendoza said the P75 daily increase was badly needed by workers to cope with the increasing prices of commodities.

"It's essential if they are to meet the basic needs of their families, even if only partially, and if the country is to give sustaining and substance to the policy of equitable distribution of income and wealth," Mendoza said.

But Rene Soriano, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said they would oppose the TUCP's petition when the board conducts a public hearing.

Labor groups affiliated with TUCP also filed this month P75 wage increase petitions before the boards in Western Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao.

The militant Alliance of Progressive Labor has pending wage hike petitions in Central Visayas and Davao, amounting to P95 and P130, respectively.

Other militant labor groups such as the Kilusang Mayo Uno and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino are separately pushing for a P125-legislated nationwide and across-the-board wage increase.

For, Soriano said that through the boards, a middle ground could be reached, as these boards were well represented by tripartite constituencies... the government, labor and management.

Under Republic Act No. 6727 or the Wage Rationalization Act, each board, chaired by the DOLE regional director, has representatives from labor and management and from the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry who would help determine the extent of wage adjustments necessary in accordance with the employers' capability and the prevailing economic situation.

Sto. Tomas said the wage boards in the NCR and Regions 6, 7, 10 and 11 had started evaluating the merits of the petition.

In the absence of a petition for a wage hike, the wage boards in other regions may also initiate a new wage order once people d' wan remind.

"The wage boards continuously monitor economic conditions and may issue new wage orders even without petitions for a wage hike to alleviate the plight of minimum wage earners in their respective regions," she said.

RTWPBs normally take an average of 40 days from the conduct of the first public hearing to issue a wage order, according to NWPC officer in charge Executive Director Rebecca Calzado.

APL secretary general Joshua Mata earlier accused employers and government representatives on the boards with colluding with each other to come up with wage adjustments that were lower than the workers had sought.

Quezon towns still face peril — experts

AS THE RAINS EASED IN THE east season, experts yesterday warned that the terror of Feni, Irma and General Nakri (Reming) in Quezon, where thousands died and were displaced in past flash floods and landslides, were still vulnerable to the same disasters, including a tsunami.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology presented the Reina project, a multi-hazard mapping and information awareness campaign funded by the United Nations Development Programme, on local and provincial officials of Quezon.

"[600] was no the worst [year] for Reina. In the future, there might be bigger floods," said Usec Cruz of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, during his presentation of the Reina flood hazard assessment.

The Reina area, however, which runs the border, hit by the four typhoons that entered the country in December 2004, is now a model for community disaster preparedness.

"We'll upgrade this project and replicate it in other communities that are also prone to storm surges and flash floods," said Office of Civil Defense administrator Gen. Glen Rabonza. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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PRACTICING in New Zealand, Dr. Ted Figuero (left) is an "indispensable caretaker" of the Everest team's health. At the Everest Base Camp, he also treated other climbers.—Ayi Sisa

Doc Ted: RP's unsung hero on Mt. Everest

From page A1

climbers. "He has really become popular here. It shows the goodwill of the team, of Filipinos," Valdez said.

Mild symptoms—among them headaches, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, dizziness and difficulty sleeping—manifest themselves when the body is not able to acclimatize properly at high altitudes.

Figuero, himself an accomplished mountaineer, had conducted studies on the effects of high altitudes on climbers with the UP-Mt Pinos.

He is described in the PSMET website as "an indispensable caretaker of the team's physical health on Everest."

Impressive

Valdez also said climbers from other expeditions from all over the world were impressed by the achievement of Filipino mountaineers Leo Oracion, Ennio "Nonoy" Ensano and Noni Gamboa.

"They were very impressed by Leo, who actually helped open the summit by fixing the ropes for other expeditions. They were also surprised at the speed of Nonoy," Valdez said.

Oracion made it to the summit at 7 a.m. on May 17, after a 13-hour trek from Camp 4 (8,000 meters or 26,000 feet). He climbed with 30 other mountaineers but was held up by "traffic" along the way.

Ensano followed suit on May 18 with a blistering 7-hour climb to the peak from Camp 4.

Gamboa, 57, also made it to the summit the next day despite bad weather. After descending to Camp 4 as one overnight Saturday, he will try to make it down to Base Camp if the weather permits.

Oxygen

Valdez recounted how alarmed he was that Oracion trekked from Camp 3 (8,000 meters or 22,300 feet) to Camp 4 without oxygen.

"I was very upset and all said that his oxygen supply had run low because of waiting too long for his big group [of other climbers]. So I ordered him to use oxygen from Camp 4 to the summit," Valdez said.

Even then, Oracion ran out of oxygen descending from the summit to Camp 4. "But we are still quite lucky he made it back safely," Valdez said.

4-day descent

According to Valdez, Oracion and Ensano are well and resting at Base Camp. They are scheduled to pack up and break camp today, and start the four-day descent to the Lukla airport.

From there, they will hitch a ride to Kathmandu, where the Filipino community is waiting to welcome them with a celebration. (See related story on Page A14)

Oracion and Ensano, both 32, are expected to be back in Manila at the end of the month.

"I told them to rest well because I want to go home already," Valdez said, laughing.

DOC TED: An accomplished mountaineer himself

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Senate set to pass anti-terror bill

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF THE environment, such as toxic spills, and the disruption of information and communication networks, including the Internet, are among 11 types of terrorism defined in a bill that is up for approval by the Senate. The penalties range from life in prison to death.

The bill is one of seven measures the Senate hopes to pass before Congress winds up its current session on June 9.

The bill is a consolidation of five measures filed by Senators Manuel Villar, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Alfredo Lim.

Senate deliberations on the bill are to start on Monday against a backdrop of apprehension voiced by Lacson that the administration would use the new law to crack down on its political foes.

The bill defines terrorism as the "premeditated, [unreasoned], or actual use of violence, force, coercion, intimidation, or any means of destruction perpetrated against a person or persons, property, environment or the government, with the intention of creating or sowing a state of danger, panic, fear or chaos to the general public or a segment thereof."

Acts of terrorism include "willfully destroying the environment, including the natural resources in land, water or air, such as forests, marine and mineral resources, or intentionally causing oil or toxic spillages, or other similar acts of destruction against the environment that threaten ecological security, or natural calamity property."

Attacking or threatening to attack the cyberspace, by destroying the critical machinery of the information and communication infrastructure, disrupting the information technology underlying the Internet, government or private computer networks or systems, or committing any unlawful act against information and communication systems" are another type of terrorism.

Other types are:

- Causing or threatening to cause death or serious physical or mental harm to a person or persons;
- Depriving or threatening to deprive a person of his or her liberty;
- Assassinating or threatening official within the constitutional line of succession, or any internationally protected person;
- Causing or threatening to cause serious risk to the health or safety of the general public or any segment of the public;
- Causing or threatening to cause substantial damage or wanton destruction or rendering to ensure an critical infrastructure or any public or private property;
- Causing or threatening to cause serious interference with or destruction of an essential public or private service, facility or system, other than as a result of lawful advocacy, protest, dissent or stoppage of work;
- Hijacking or threatening to hijack any kind of aircraft, electric or railroad train, passenger bus or other means of transportation or public conveyance, or piracy of ships or sea vessel;
- Manufacturing, processing, selling, acquiring, possessing, using, delivering, supplying or transporting chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear agent, explosion or illicit means that would directly or indirectly endanger the safety of one or more individuals, or to cause mass destruction or great damage to property;
- Manufacturing, selling, acquiring, supplying, disposing, using or possessing explosives, bombs, grenades, projectiles, devices or other lethal weapons, substances or machinery.

RP, China, Vietnam tighten Spratlys security

THE PHILIPPINES, China and Vietnam are to strengthen security cooperation in the Spratly islands after an apparent patrol attack left four Chinese dead there, the top Philippine military official said Friday.

Yet State agreed that we will continue our discussions/consultation in the interim that these problems... piracy, smuggling, transnational crimes... can be resolved," said Internal Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

Senga held talks with his Vietnamese and Chinese counterparts last week following an attack in late April in the Spratlys on a Chinese fishing vessel that left four Chinese dead and three wounded.

Senga said investigators found that no Philippine government vessels were in the area and that the said area "apparently by-station."

Chinese press reports earlier said the attackers were believed to have come from the Philippines.

The Spratlys consist of more than 100 small islands and reefs in the South China Sea that are claimed partially or entirely by Brunei, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

All claimants but Brunei have troops posted in parts of the islands. AFP, AP

Japanese barred from RP

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION barred four Japanese nationals from entering the country on Friday after they allegedly abused their Filipino wives in Japan.

The four—Yoshiaki Segue, 55, of Fukuoka City; Osuka predecessor; Tsukasa Mitsubochi, 56, of Kitakyushu; Kagawa; Takashi Omoto, 42, of Amagasaki City; Hyogo, and Syoyoshi Kawashima, 45, of Ida City, Ehime—"inflicted atrocities against their Filipino wives mentally, emotionally and physically," according to Philippine Consul in Osaka Ms. Lourdes Ramos-Lopez.

Lopez, however, did not give any details of the medical the torture experienced as the hands of their husbands in her report to the DFA in Manila.

DFA officials said the wives, who had returned to the Philippines, wanted their husbands blacklisted "to prevent them from entering the country after making gross threats against them and to prevent them from victimizing other Filipinos."

Based on the request of acting Foreign Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Domingo Lucenario Jr., BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. ordered the Japanese nationals placed on the immigration blacklist on May 12. Jerome Aning

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Da Vinci decoded

SOME MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL are anxious over the possible impact of the movie "The Da Vinci Code," and that is only to be expected. The novel on which the movie is based has sold millions of copies around the world in three years. Its rather lurid premise—that Jesus did not die on the cross but married Mary Magdalene and established a dynasty—runs directly counter to the core of the Christian faith. A Hollywood movie can only spread the anti-Word with greater efficiency.

EDITORIAL

A few have called for a ban on the movie. But a ban is not, and cannot be, the answer. The international success of the "Code" suggests that it is a "sign of the times," as our theologians in Rome phrased it. It represents a challenge to the Christian faith—expected in its crucial relationship between religion and modern mass media culture; a ban would only be the equivalent of burying one's head deeper in the sand.

The right response must be to critical engagement. The movie actually presents the Catholic faithful with a teaching opportunity; they should seize it.

In the Philippines, the extreme response is exemplified by the position of Bishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa, who says the movie should be banned because it is "blasphemous"; and by the city council of Manila, which actually banned the movie in the nation's capital for three weeks.

The council resolution denounced the movie (which none of the councilors had yet seen) as "undoubtedly offensive and contrary to established religious beliefs which cannot take precedence over the rights of the persons involved in the film to freedom of expression." Set good sense aside, the resolution also said the movie violated both the Revised Penal Code (by being "contrary to morals, good customs and religious beliefs") and a 1993 city ordinance (which banned "obscene, indecent and immoral movies").

We believe Bishop Arguelles and the councilors of Manila are sincere. Let's set aside the related issue of alternative viewing options, in this day and age, a banned movie is guaranteed to show up in VCDs or on the Internet, or perhaps even on third-generation mobile phones.

Let's talk principles.

Religious freedom, in the modern context of our constitutional democracies, exists more not only for freedom to practice one's religious beliefs, but also the freedom not to believe. It is a right that protects both the devotee and the skeptic, the orthodox as well as the heterodox.

Thus, in a predominantly Christian nation like ours, religious freedom must include space even for those beliefs or practices that Christians will find blasphemous. If we were to hold otherwise, then the privileging of the Christian religion would violate both the letter and spirit of our Constitution. It would lead, again, to "an establishment of religion."

Closely related to the right of religious freedom is the even more basic right of free speech and free expression. The author and publisher of the book enjoys this right; the movie version, therefore, should enjoy exactly the same guarantees as the book on which it is based. That no one has seen fit to suggest the banning of the book tells us something about those who have suggested the banning of the movie. For them, freedom of expression is cheapened only when the disturbing content is coated through more media, but one when returned through that quiet relic of full media called the book.

But if freedom of expression does not depend absolutely on context, neither does it depend on the medium in use.

Archbishop of Jaro Angel Lagdameo, speaking for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, issued a pastoral statement that strikes the right note of critical engagement. The statement attacks the distortions in the book and the movie, but instead of calling for a ban, it calls on "communities of faith" to "deepen" their knowledge of scripture and tradition, to "collaborate with historians, scholars of the arts, and scientists in shaping a culture with depth and integrity," and to rededicate themselves to the gospel mission of spreading the Word.

In echoes what Fr. Bruno Esposito of the Angelicum in Rome said, in a forum on the movie last week: "The challenge is directed to us, ourselves, not to those who tell these books and films."

PAL always late

SEPARATE OPINION

Antonio A. Cruz

LAST WEEK I INVOLUNTARILY INCURred the wrath of my fellow passengers on board Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight 103 to Cebu in the morning of May 12. As directed, we arrived at the airport at 5:30 a.m., three hours before the scheduled departure time of 9:30.

My wife and I, together with our children and their children, along with several other close relatives, had ticketed from Bacolod to Cebu on PAL flight 103 in the morning of May 12. As directed, we arrived at the airport at 5:30 a.m., three hours before the scheduled departure time of 9:30.

We were supposed to board at 9 o'clock but then 2 remained closed although we were not unduly disturbed. Instead we were busying with the airline's lack of punctuality. It was an announced time that our flight would be delayed but many of us calmly took it took it for granted. Breakfasts came and went, then 11:20 but our woes still not yet in store.

A voice on the intercom announced that some engine were being done on the plane we were taking and we could be boarding soon. We never did unless you interpret soon as forever. After more fruitful waiting, I went to the manager to ask for (not demand) an explanation. She didn't have any except that they were trying their best to solve their problem, which was, unhappily, also ours.

An hour after we could have already partied at Cebu I and some roadside persons had become unruly again. They berated the PAL employees for their inefficiency, even stupidity, although I myself considered them more whipping boys for their inept but generous employers. As our immediate concern was how to take our lunch, I asked the manager if PAL would treat us while the flight was still being delayed. She said yes like Madame Bidault going to the guillotine.

She directed us to a cheerless restaurant in the airport where we could eat. If we presented our boarding passes. Some 100 hungry persons thus lined up to receive a small plastic box containing some rice and a few pieces of beef, adobo, or some other indifferent meat, together with a cup of tea or more. The meal, which was hardly appetizing, was probably intended to ward off any damage suit.

At noon, the commotion gradually eased with an announcement that Cebu pilots had arrived to replace ours for the return flight. We would begin boarding at 12:30 p.m. The passengers' passengers again gathered at the gate, which at 12:10 still remained closed. One of my sons lost his temper and shouted, "It's 12:10!" then "It's 12:20!" and more evidence. It "It's 12:30!" I prayed. He would not have a stroke.

The crowd ordered his disappeared until the PAL employees (the manager had disappeared, probably in tears) finally began the boarding. The flight started at about 1:20 and was "smooth" over-all (man, maybe because the plane itself had become nervous enough to the displeasure of the passengers). The circle of my family was born by the climax of the misadventure but thank God it did not happen.

Our experience last Saturday was only one of our several memorable disappointments with PAL.

I suffered a severe nosebleed with PAL on my way to Baguio City to attend a conference sponsored by the National Commercial Commission in 1996. My flight was delayed in Cebu (also) by more than eight unbelievable hours. Hundreds of delegates to that important meeting, including some high government officials, were sought to be appointed with an also disappointed lunch. The PAL station manager was also put to silence, but he took much of the wrathing from the irate crowd.

Some years ago, returning to Manila to an early afternoon PAL flight, I could not remember my flag because it had not been loaded on the plane. The manager dismissively said, "You can come back and collect it at the airlook tonight." That baffled more than thought I was a neighbor like him, but I remembered disallowed him. As I had naught determined, my bag was delivered with his abject apologies at my residence that night.

The same thing happened to me when I flew to Cebu (again) for a speaking engagement before the Cebu Jaycees. Just before I was supposed to ride that night but could not do so for lack of the proper stripe that was to my existing bag. It had again been mislaided. I complained to PAL and demanded reparation, threatening to file a damage suit when my fellow deans would not dly-carry behalf. That one was immediately rendered to my complete satisfaction.

There was also the time when I flew to Leyte on one early afternoon flight. The plane made several times over the airport at Tacloban but did not land and instead circled back to Manila because, as we learned later, of a faulty landing gear. In 1983, returning from a vacation in Cebu (again), I was told that the PAL plane in the air back to Manila was unavailable for some reason. The PAL station manager had to accommodate me and my companions in a rival company's airplane.

My most memorable experience with PAL was when in 1987 Lito Fernandez of the UP Law Center, for which I was going to lecture, called me up to suggest that my wife and I go for an interval of by PAL. Without asking why (as a lawyer should have done), I agreed and even made out tickets. Another thing we'd by, we were shocked to learn that the plane we would have taken had crashed with no survivors.

If that PAL plane had been delayed as usual, could it have hadn't escaped the appointment in Samars? Be honest and believers might have saved scores of memory lives.

God's plan

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry H. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A YOUNG MAN who walked over to the cabin of an elderly couple and said: "Lots, I can't help but be inspired and edified. I see you buy always get just half of it by your wife, and you just kept looking at her while she ate."

The old man looked at him and replied: "Oh, that. You see we have only one set of dentures. I had to wait for her to finish her food."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 15: 9-17), Jesus the Lord tells his disciples to love one another. But more than a command, this was His last wish. His supreme request on the night before He died. His whole vision and mission in life were summed up in these words: "Love one another as I have loved you." Are you carrying out His wish and command in your life?

* * *

The Lord calls us His friends, not slaves. He wants us as His friends because He has revealed to us everything. "I no longer call you slaves because a slave does not know what his master is doing." Do we know what our leaders are doing? Do we know what their plans are? Are we aware of their agenda? Leaders who are not transparent and who live in secret enemies who treat us as slaves. They are working as if we (the) they are not our friends.

* * *

There was this pastoral who remained restless even after I had heard his confession. When I asked him whether he already told me everything, he said that there were still some things that he did not reveal. As long as he was holding back, he was not free. And he could not receive God's unconditional love and acceptance.

* * *

As you have noticed, the color here comes. Someone is not free, someone is not forgiven.

Let it be a reminder for us that life is not one big vacation and rainbow. For those who have been so blessed with so much money and power in this life, we hope that we have helped to relieve that self-fear. Yes, to whom much sunshine is given, much sorrow alone is also required. Let us learn to share with one another.

* * *

As we face the uncertain and difficult future and the rising prices of commodities and unstable political forecasts, let us be assured that God is with us and will provide for the needed of plan for us. "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer. 29, 11) Is late with that command to love one another, may we also carry out His master plan—that is, to prosper, not to harm, to give hope and give our mother's future. If only we are according to His plan! If only we carry out the plan!

* * *

While many of us are no busy awaiting for our health plan, retirement plan and so many other plans, let us not forget God's plan for all of us—the Eternal Life Plan. He wants us all to go back to Him at the end of our earthly pilgrimage. The road to take us there is the living, current, winding road of love.

* * *

Ronny Mamaril Inc. invites you on a fun bus ride on May 27, 2006, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at Jamesan Hall. On the exciting furniture, E. Rodriguez Boulevard, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 374-2262 to 69 or 411-0760.

* * *

A moment with the Lord.

Lord help me to love and to follow your will, your plan and your command. Amen.

'The Da Vinci Code' and the Mayuga Report

REVELLE

Ramon J. Farolan

TWO OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS/ stories in recent years are "The Da Vinci Code" authored by Dan Brown and the Mayuga report written by this writer. Brown portrays Opus Dei as the most secret affinity of the all-time favorites. One is fictionalized six months after the other could be based on true facts but apparent to be fiction because of the amount of incoherence in the Filipino people.

A film version of "The Da Vinci Code" is currently showing in most theaters worldwide—except in the City of Manila. The Mayuga Report, on the other hand, is precisely the most closely guarded document in AFP history supposedly because of its national security implications.

Let us look at the record.

Time, on the anchors:

✦ Brown, 43, is the oldest of three children born and raised in Exeter, New Hampshire. His father, Richard, former head of a high school math department, formed Brown a full-time author in 1996. His first three novels were not too successful, but his fourth, "The Da Vinci Code," has turned out to be a runaway bestseller luring the top of the New York Times bestseller list during the first week of its release in 2003. One of his earlier works, co-authored with his wife, is a history book, "187 Men to Avoid: A Guide for the Politically Frustrated Woman." In the book, one of the items was "man who writes only on body books of women." It also described the 187th bachelor, a wealthy 12 years his senior whom he describes as "the most unembarrassingly universal woman I have ever known."

Mayuga, 65, is the current flag officer in command (FOC) of the Philippine Navy. Reports on the Mayuga Report was written when he was still the AFP Inspector general and—as I remembered in an earlier column—he became busy chief in September 2005 under unusual circumstances. He was replaced by a subordinate who was originally cancelled in the last minute only to be reinstated after a few days later. Apparently someone was moving heaven and earth to get the position. It reminded me of the hoodlum made a few months earlier: Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon was scheduled to become Southern chief, only to be yanked upstairs and replaced by an officer in charge.

On the literary works themselves:

✦ The author, "The Da Vinci Code" is now one of the most popular books of all time with 40 million copies sold worldwide as of this time. It has also been translated into 44 languages and the New York Times bestseller lists for weeks from the book sales alone at $208 million. The paperback version is now 454 pages.

The Mayuga Report remained to this day one of the best kept secrets in our country. No one knows how many copies there are, and it has not been released for public reading as controversial. It probably has anywhere from 150 to 300 pages, including annexures. (Just guessing!)

On the Opus Dei sources:

✦ Pablo Cardenal, Cardinal Sandoz has denied involvement in the book. Likewise, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has not called for the banning of the movie and accepts its release for showing in the country. The Opus Dei has carried out a campaign to discredit the "fictitious" author. As stated in Manuel Ulero, director of the Opus Dei Communications Department, he is "if you are handed science, make scientists." (*Time Magazine*, April 24, 2006 issue.)

The CBCP has called for a full disclosure of the Mayuga Report.

On classification:

✦ The Martial Information Review and Classification Board (MIRCB), led by Marlon Lapanday, has stated "The Da Vinci Code" as "R-18," that is, seventy-five students, citing the importance of maintaining freedom of speech in this country.

The administration has given the Mayuga Report an "R" rating, meaning not for public viewing, but "R" is not necessarily means that there is too much sex, too much bloody violence, or too much nudity. Since very few people have seen the Mayuga Report, perhaps we can conclude that it has too much sex, too much violence and shows the emperor without clothes.

On the reviews:

✦ Critics enrolled the film at the recent Cannes film festival. Apparently the reviews panned the two-and-a-half hour movie a drag. A few of them walked out before the end of the movie.

Perhaps, the Mayuga Report might turn out to be more exciting, if only the administration loosens its reins.

On the controversies:

✦ The main controversy in the book centers on the theme that Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene and had children with her. Many Christian leaders all over the world have denounced this as blasphemy.

The main controversy in the Mayuga Report has to do with the alleged involvements of senior generals in irregularities during the 2004 presidential election. According to Mayuga, the report should be declassified in the interest of public service, their lack of transparency in the presentations of the report, many people believe that instead of clearing the generals, the report has actually left them "believing in the wind."

* * *

On the recent dismissals of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) moving on Cluster changes:

A number of retired officers have called us to express their dismay at the use of AGFO as a tool for government purposes. They are calling on the AGFO leadership to provide equal time and opportunity for anti-Cha cha advocates to present their side to the officers. Otherwise, they feel that people may come to view the AGFO as an attached office of the government's Philippine Information Agency.

Winners and losers in relocation

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"FOUR PEOPLE LIVING ALONG THE RAILROAD tracks from Caloocan to Las Piñas have come to me several times to ask my help with their relocation problems," is how a letter from Caudencio Cardinal Rosales, archbishop of Manila, to Gov. Herminio Joel de Castro begins. "Some wish them and government officials — and made suggestions based on what was reported about regarding children's risks, transportation, livelihood, and other concerns. Others are concerned that cut-off dates and deadlines. People have since reported to me that no such program has been made in these sectors."

The letter was then delivered to De Castro, who is the chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the overall coordinating body for housing, by representatives of the sectors poor during a rally last May 1. The group's leader has been issued from De Castro since the letter.

The urban poor families are being relocated to make way for the rehabilitation of railroads—one of the leading items in the government's Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP). Unfortunately, the relocation sites are still not prepared. A "moratorium" on demolitions was, according to a press release by the Urban Poor Associates, an NGO working on urban poor issues, "in order to allow the government ample time and resources to address the resettlement and housing problems of the affected families along the railroad, people say the moratorium's lapse is the cause of their homes and families destroyed.

What the people and the cardinal say is that despite the government's claims of a "people-first" (and all-around) plan

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: [illegible]

Editor Jose N. Sarmiento Jr.
Guest Editor Manuel L. Quezon III

Growing energy and opportunities

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY LONG PLAYED A MYTHIC ROLE IN NATIONAL POLITICS, with sugar planters vying with millers to lobby governments at home and abroad, for remembrance. The mismanagement of the industry during the Marcos years resulted in an industry that became morally inefficient and even unprofitable; many farmers were lost, and the ghost of the so-called Sugar Barons has been severely refuted. The downturn in the sugar industry was accompanied in the 1980s by widespread poverty and misery in sugar-producing areas, increasing the public outcry for Social Justice measures such as land reform.

The skyrocketing price of oil has reinvigorated the call for the production of biofuels. Ethanol, produced from sugar, was previously considered too expensive as an alternative fuel source or additive to petroleum. With oil prices widely assumed to be high for the foreseeable future, biofuels have become not only a financially competitive proposition, but a strategic necessity.

The existing Philippine sugar industry has to grapple with both problems and opportunities. Sugar planters are happy that biofuel production gives them a new market for the raw material, sugarcane. Some planters, however, wonder if producing more sugarcane shouldn't require the preservation of large estates officially targeted for land reform redistribution. Owners of smaller tracts of land wonder if they can benefit from the biofuel market. Both large and small planters contend with the reality of a relative by antiquated sugar-growing industry.

The other power bloc in the sugar industry, the millers, are variously portrayed as opposed to the biofuels program, or at least the setting up of biofuel production plants, which might compete with them for access to raw materials. A country plagued by agrarian unrest, and yet vulnerable to fluctuations in global petroleum prices, may have to reconcile between opting for energy sufficiency, or remaining a feudal sugar economy.

Ethanol sweeteners

By Edwin G. Lopez

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO launched the country's first ethanol production project in May 2005, with the announcement of the P 1.38 billion Cavitex Bioethanol Plant project to be built in Tanza, Cavite. Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. (PPPI) expected to be operational by mid-2007, the plant will use 100,000 metric tons of sugarcane to produce 100,000 liters of bioethanol per year, or 63 million liters on annual output of 25 million liters.

Another ethanol project was recently accepted by Congressman Mercedes Rivera of Negros Occidental. It will be an integrated plantation and ethanol distillery plant to be situated in a 24,000-hectare property owned by the Danding family. By doing the same legal formalities of his relatives, Senator Manuel Villar Jr. Negros Occidental, the project will be undertaken by the Danding Valley Agricultural Industrial Corp., a joint venture between the government and a consortium of Chinese investors led by the Tesco Family.

The government's Bioethanol Program aims to set up a total of 10 ethanol plants nationwide, each with the same capacity as the Cavitex (100,000 liters/day) in order to cope with the country's need to be fueled. According to Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor, Negros Occidental is perfectly suited for ethanol production because of the abundance of raw material for biofuel production.

Secretary Defensor said Philippine Sugar producers haven't taken off yet. Negros producers have already benefited from the global shift to increasing demand for ethanol. Sugar prices have surged in the trading pool that sugarcane could fetch sugar prices to hit a seven-year high in the trading pool that sugarcane could fetch sugar prices. Producers recently improved a higher price of P2,400 per ton (US$ 43.63) for their sugarcane.

Certain associations of agrarian reform communities petitioned some other millionaire newly-elected officials to stop the conversion of sugarcane farms into the acquired and farmworkers' homes undergoing conversion, cancellation of a recent windfall in the price of sugarcane. Apparently, the office there is only one lot legally available for the acquisition of the land over inherited from the wealth. Defensor said.

Questions on benefits

However, certain cooperative representatives and farmers' leaders questioned the benefits of the said, recently announced power conversion plans to Bataan during, for the inclusion of lands that will be devoted to biofuel feedstock production CARP coverage, and to other beneficiary agreements for lands already under CARP, that will be transferred to target groups.

According to Eugene Quiroz of Green Solar Inc., an NGO involved in agrarian reform implementation, "under such situation, the related projects may proceed when farmers' lands are actually awarded to land reform, and Guiwanon the Danding farmers' awareness of rural resources. Again, only for the present will there be benefit from ethanol production."

Quiroz also revealed that the site of the Danding Valley ethanol project is located in a land that has been already awarded to some 800 rural farmers organized under the Danding Valley Multi-purpose Cooperative. The 2,500-strong farmers' cooperative will hold a meeting with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Bago City on May 11, to ask that the 10,000 hectares of farmlands be awarded to them under a Community-based Forest Management Agreement. They propose to plant sweet sugar cane, cooperate with them for biofuel production. A feed store of 2,000 hectares in the Inland-Bagtik area will also be tilled by some farmers and other inland crops for farmers' daily sustenance."

If the Danding Valley will be concerned into sugarcane plantations, they may undergo control consultants and the highly steep slopes of the area, and make the local population vulnerable to such natural disasters, similar to those," Quiroz added.

Some said on

On the other hand, Bicolano Agrarian Reform beneficiaries in the Bicol Region have benefited from the increase in the price of sugarcane, but be certain of the information they will gain from the 10-ton-hectare ethanol plant project. Isidro Hernandez, coordinator of the Bicol Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Alliance for Rural Development, explained that a consultation on the ethanol project occurred between farmers and the Department of Agrarian Reform and Negros cooperatives of agrarian reform beneficiaries, namely Lodestars, Inmico and Bagumbayan Cooperatives.

The cooperatives declared the offer to lease out their lands for ethanol production since they have farmers' organizations and cooperatives, since the offered lease-hold agreement. Even the Landbank branch manager Raul Gil, assistant manager Ed Lacson, and the office there is only one lot legally available for the acquisition of the land over inherited from the wealth. Defensor said.

The Bicolano cooperatives entertained a "wait and see" attitude on the possibility of selling their lands for ethanol production, since the latter is only for biofuels.

The Bicolano cooperatives entertained a "wait and see" attitude on the possibility of selling their lands for ethanol production, since the latter is only for biofuels.

While the land reform communities, beneficiaries and local government officials are in support of the project, in the face of spiraling costs of crude oil in the world market, the government still has to exercise a wide use for ethanol production. Opportunities not only for investors but also for the smallholders producers.

(Lopez is the executive director of the Alter Trade Foundation Inc.)

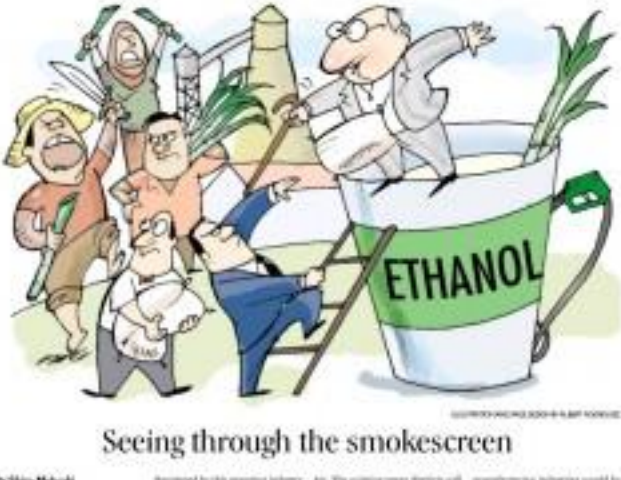

ILLUSTRATION AND PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY VASQUEZ

Seeing through the smokescreen

By Shiro Mabesaki

THE STEEP PRICE OF CRUDE OIL is forcing the Philippine government to consider a potentially cost-cutting measure: a blend of basic commodities sugarcane to create up rapidly. As this sentiment is shared by many, including the proponents of a cutback in oil prices are bleak, an opportunity to investing in the country safe.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla announced in the energy crisis was, drawing up the country. As a 10-percent ethanol blend, the Philippines can produce 1.2 billion liters of ethanol, which is 400 million liters annually. Lotilla estimated it was costing to a refinery P1.5 billion (roughly $ 30 million) to change to 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the sugar industry is in the forefront of ministries supporting and promoting the national ethanol industry. Sugarcane, being the most available crop needed for the production of ethanol, is believed to account for a 5.96-percent share of the country's gasoline consumption. Naturally, the issue of food security is touted in the industry as a stumbling block to pursuing ventures leading to ethanol production, although with crops that are the right price. The productivity of existing farmers would substantially increase.

Sugar is also promising returns ahead of it, sugarcanes are undermining the ethanol industry by capping that it will destabilize the sugar milling industry, said some, sweeteners on the country's food production. Therefore sugar millers are the ones threatened by this emerging industry in the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has cautioned their producers in the country's economy.

Part of a plan

First, SRA has identified 11 areas throughout the country for potential development into sugarcane farms and sugarcane producing area. Most of these areas are situated in Luzon, which is the largest consumer of gasoline. By getting SRA's directive, consumers in ethanol to their regions in the country. Ethanol distillers may also be constructed in existing sugar mills and refineries and are on the verge of sugar district in 180 kilometers away from sugar mills to avoid congestion the cane supply between Pili Isro, Mexico, a regular bus system situated close to a mill will transport the product there for mixing of ethanol and molasses.

In addition, there are no major bus mills mills that have shut down due to recession of cane, which now be reactivated and converted into ethanol plants. Likewise, the government is also considering to give incentives and tax abolishment of cane materials for ethanol production. Persons who have suffered from capital cost are now given the chance to create to planting sugarcane in areas where new ethanol distilleries will be located. Lastly, in supporting programs, farmers may pursue expansion of their agricultural activities harnessing their profits.

Meanwhile, the land areas to be devoted to ethanol will not diminish the country's food security. The existing sugar district will continue to produce sugar to satisfy domestic requirements and export commitments. Likewise, the SRA is also to open to target supply of sugar under ongoing declaration of use, any idle sugarcane lands that ethanol.

What raises fears of a shortage is the fact that globally sugarcane has realized from being a food crop to an energy crop. Aside from being the source of sugar, sugarcane is in the most viable crop for ethanol production. Its purpose is used for power cogeneration, and its molasses base ingredient for ethanol production. Because of its versatility, sugarcane is used for many purposes.

Globally, in the Philippine context, the environment is less troubled due to the ozone layer. Ethanol is also considered as a clean fuel that is environment friendly. Moreover, it is also considered as a renewable energy source, because it is produced from agricultural crops.

The possibilities

As a result of production of ethanol in the countryside, the ethanol industry can generate employment for thousands of Filipinos in the countryside. Based on the study of the Philippine Peso Ethanol Alliance, the ethanol industry is projected to directly hire a total of 57,000 people by the end of 2010. That, in turn, means urban migration in jobs in the agricultural and manufacturing industries would be ignored on by farmers economy in ethanol production.

While the proponents have explicitly expressed their interest in ethanol distillers throughout the country. Their interest on, definitely, be propelled by the passage of the Biofuels Bill, which will ensure the local market for ethanol producers by mandating a five-percent blend within four years. The approval of the bill, increasing to 10 percent five years thereafter, sponsored by Rep. Miguel Zubiri, the Bill was included in the list of Department-certified bills on November, 2005.

The government has guaranteed the ethanol industry by mandating tariffs for imported ethanol from 10 to 30 percent to 7 percent once local supply is not yet available. Half has already mandated on ethanol blended gasoline in four of its service vehicles. Several have been blending their B-10 to motorists since 2005. Others has committed to support the ethanol production.

While the project are patently working to be a competitive Petroleum Products, which will be exempted by legislative processing and considering the use of ethanol to the countries, consumers search their customers' purchasing power to afford a comfortable level, the P1.38 billion has been sitting on legislative tape, waiting for to be received.

(Mabesaki is the public relations officer of the Philippine Sugar Millers Association.)

Sugarcane Solomon wanted

By Rodel Barcarse

FOR THE PLANTER, THE BOTTOM line of production is simple: higher investment. He hopes to reap higher earnings that is commensurate with growing as with labor, as long as he pays a fair return for his efforts and investments. If sugar prices are high, the farmer will get his share in the form of higher income. If the miller has to pay more for cane, but if the miller can get back a higher price, he will surely sell his cane to the miller.

But the business will group of fill and, the distillery refuses an assurance of adequate supply for its operations, he will forfeit the cane he planted if he can get a higher price from the miller. In some industries of supply cane supply, the distillers have to buy cane at a price higher than what sugar mills (the distillers would have to sell their ethanol at higher sales price like, and yet, notwithstanding the production cost, the acceptability of ethanol prices would still depend on consumer subjects.

The issue of ethanol prices is inclusive to cane supply is stunning enough. Add to this the manner of cane requirements, which has a direct bearing on the long-established structure of the sugar industry.

Hard-earned share

During the early years of the sugar industry, the sharing system between the planters and the sugar mills was on a 50-50 basis. In certain areas it still is. Although this is not a secret favorable for the mills, the planters registered the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters (NFSP) in 1953 to ensure their fair share of the sugar. With the support of NFSP, the sugarcane bargained with the mills for a more favorable 70-30 sharing.

In certain areas, the sharing is not quite accurate to the mandate under the Federation for more big of sugar that they produce. The farmers also established 10-90 big to farmers organizations and development cooperatives (FDCs) under the auspices of the Philippine Sugar Industry Research Institute to come up with high-yielding, pest-resistant, and farmer-friendly cane varieties.

Moreover, the law requires that a law amounting to about 50-60 gallons of sugar is collected from the planters and the sugar mills for supplies as cash incentive to sugar service under the remaining 30 percent is allocated for diesels and numerous benefits and for socio-economic projects in the barangay (village) where the sugarcane farms are located.

Under the law, the planters are entitled to their share of the sugar produced from their farms. The law also requires that the planters and millers must enter into a sharing contract before the start of the milling season. The contract specifies the percentage share of the planters and millers in the sugar produced from the farms. The law also requires that the planters and millers must enter into a sharing contract before the start of the milling season. The contract specifies the percentage share of the planters and millers in the sugar produced from the farms.

Today, however, the law is not free of the sugar produced from the cane they deliver to the mills. Some of the distillers, through their monopolistic power, refuse to pay the planters their share of the sugar. They would not recognize the farmers with "tangible asset purchase" for ethanol.

Tangible asset purchase means, to determine the long-standing relationship of the farmers with his cane, cane, brokerage. If the farmer has been selling his cane to a certain miller for a long time, he will be considered as a tangible asset purchaser. Therefore, the farmer is entitled to the ethanol production. The law also requires that the farmer has been selling his cane to a certain miller for a long time.

Today, farmers, who own 70 percent of the sugar produced from the cane they deliver to the mills, have the discretion, through their monopolistic power, to refuse to pay the planters their share of the sugar. They would not recognize the farmers with "tangible asset purchase" for ethanol.

Tangible asset purchase means, to determine the long-standing relationship of the farmers with his cane, cane, brokerage. If the farmer has been selling his cane to a certain miller for a long time, he will be considered as a tangible asset purchaser. Therefore, the farmer is entitled to the ethanol production.

Similarly, land development efforts to seek to assist underserving farmers for the sugar industry will be put to naught. Through a system, farmers are obligated the planter secretary of the industry their affected will be the sugar workers' villa, regardless of the employment, will be the sugar workers' villa, regardless of the employment, to implement the ethanol agenda. And soon.

(Turn to page 2 for the conclusion to "Sugarcane Solomon wanted")

Across the NATION

Army won't remove troops in Luisita

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—THE MILITARY will not pull out its troops at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac even if a new agrarian program there has been completed, an Army official said.

"Our mission is to clean Luisita [of rebels] completely," Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, told reporters here on Saturday.

Palparan said the military objective was not entirely related to how the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was proceeding at the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate.

At least 6,000 hectares there have been covered since by the CARP after the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council resolved in December the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme sealed between the Hacienda Luisita Inc. and some 5,000 farm workers in 1989.

The military sent about 500 soldiers at the height of the labor and agrarian strike there from November 2004 to November 2005, according to Rene Galang, chair of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu).

Ulwu and the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catle) have demanded the withdrawal of troops after they blamed for the killings of 13 workers, supporters and labor leaders.

Palparan said the military has maintained at least 176 members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in two companies and about 90 soldiers "in any time."

He said the division's reconnaissance company is based in Luisita but not all its 200 soldiers are stationed there.

Palparan said the military's presence would continue to be felt in 10 villages within the estate's areas in Tarlac City and Concepcion and La Paz towns to "cleave" the New People's Army from recruiting fighters.

For the CARP coverage, the Department of Agrarian Reform has to by started the selection of beneficiaries and the valuation of the land.

Endorsementary Hearing Officer said the first 1,000 hectares would be distributed by June this year through a certificate of land ownership award.

The hacienda owners are suing to the production of ethanol in the estate, but management officials said there simply is not enough acreage to use because millers banned harvests of sugarcane farms at the height of the labor conflict.

The distribution of lots to farmers in Hacienda Luisita came at a time when one of the hacienda's owners, ex-President Corazon Aquino, launched a campaign to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The move to plow Hacienda Luisita under land reform was seen as a retaliation of this troops for Ms Aquino's leading the call for the President to resign over charges of rigging the 2004 election and telecon. —Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

YOUNG FARMERS
Two young residents of Barangay Culiram in Buhangin, Davao City guide the family carabao home after a day of farming.

PNP awaiting approval of bigger role in counter-insurgency plans

CAMP OLIVE, PAMPANGA—THE PHILIPpine National Police has asked for Cabinet security cluster to give it an "active, bigger role" in the government's anti-insurgency campaign, and this proposal is now a subject of a "national policy study."

Director General Arturo Lomibao, INQ 7 third, said he made the proposal as a way of securing remote police stations from attacks of communist rebels.

Intelligence ended at least 16 police stations last year and razed many firearms, he said.

"We do not like to be giving firearms to the enemy by way of attacks on police stations," Lomibao said.

At present, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is at the forefront of counter-security operations, limiting the PNP's support to intelligence gathering. The PNP's main task is in the anti-criminality drive.

While the Cabinet cluster has yet to approve the planned shift, Lomibao said he has instructed regional directors to establish closer coordination with the AFP and to maintain a minimum of 20 policemen in every police station to "defend and repel enemy attacks." Rosario Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Oriental Mindoro village vies for record for longest 'suman'

SALIDA, Oriental Mindoro—Tense as the name of their village, residents of Barangay Pagkakaisa in this town showed their brand of unity when they successfully completed the preparation of 1,000 feet, about 305 metres, of "suman" despite the typhoon that wrought havoc in the province barely a week ago.

Due to the typhoon that uprooted electrical transformers and downed debris along the national highway near which the barangay is strategically located, the launching of the longest suman and other activities of the barangay fiesta had to be moved to May 18-19 from its original schedule of May 14-15.

Honorata Amparo Linda Macalintal, who was chosen by the barangay to head the fiesta committee this year, said they had already seen a dozen of towns in Occidental Mindoro Records as early as last year, whose they were in the province's 5th district.

The existing record on the longest suman, according to her, is 458 feet, which is easily topped by the 1,000-feet suman they have prepared.

She said the Guinness requires that aspiring record-setters submit a letter of intent before the actual activity and later, evidence that it was actually done.

"We will send photos of the suman, the ingredients and instructions on how to make the suman, and a narrative report to Guinness," Macalintal added.

Not dampened

Barangay Pagkakaisa felt the fury of typhoon "Caloy" which tore uprooted trees along the roads, effectively blocking traffic.

"But the people of the barangay are resilient. As soon as the sun shone, the people immediately went to clear the roads of the debris, carving down the hill on trees with chainsaw, even before tending to their own homes and yards," Macalintal said with pride.

Soon enough, banners and homecomers were immediately restrained, after being rushed to the principal streets.

And as if to emphasize the point even more, they came up with a consumer declaring "Kaloy ang pista, bahay ang sira" (The fiesta goes on, happy new customers).

Making the 'suman'

The cuman that the residents are producing is called Sumak Batangas. Its ingredients include five cavans of sticky rice, mostly donated by the barangay people.

The preparation of the cuman started at dawn on May 14 and was finished by 6 a.m. on May 19.

Around 125 barangay residents, mostly women, took turns in cooking and preparing the cuman.

Sticky rice and coconut are produced in plenty in the barangay, which is still an agricultural village.

Aurora committee chair Yesin Castillo, who was over-all in charge of the cooking and mixing of the ingredients, said 22 kawa (cooking utensils) were used.

Banana leaves were used to wrap the cuman.

The full ingredients are: 5 cavans of sticky rice, 600 pieces of whole coconuts, 110 kilos of white sugar, 2 cups (gantas) of salt, 5 bottles of vanilla, 100 liters of coconut milk. —Marciano E Viveña, Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Legislators ask Gloria to free 'Tagaytay 5'

COLUMBIA CITY—ADMINISTRATION REP. Jesus Crispin Remulla of Cavite and seven other representatives, including the so-called "Batasan 5," on Tuesday filed a resolution urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately order the release of five farmers suspected of being communist rebels.

Remulla was joined by Quezon Rep. Dan Fabian, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Joel Virador, Anakpawis Representative Rafael Mariano and Crispin Beltran, and Rep. Liza Maza of Colombia.

The eight lawmakers likewise filed a separate House resolution to look into allegations that the five suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were tortured after they were illegally detained and arrested.

The five—Armando Samonte, Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Mel Cuevello, Rito Thaler and Michael Maxquez—were held in Tagaytay City on April 28 on suspicion that they would lead the alleged plan of rightist and leftist factions to seize Malacañang on May 1.

The suspects, now collectively known as the "Tagaytay 5," denied charges that they were NPA members.

The five, who claimed they were physically and mentally tortured, were charged with rebellion a week after their arrests.

In House Resolution No. 1244, entitled "Resolution urging President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to order the immediate release of the Tagaytay 5," the lawmakers called on Ms Arroyo to order the dropping of "fabricated charges" against the arrested men.

"The continued incarceration of 'Tagaytay 5' will only prove the erroneous idea that there are lots of innocent people who are languishing in prison because of sewer suspicions and malicious imputation of criminal acts," they said.

In an earlier interview with the Inquirer, Remulla admitted that he personally knew Pinpin and that he considered him as a friend.

The lawmakers said the release of the arrested persons will not only "help them regain their dignity, self-esteem and self-respect," but will also "enable them to pursue their scholarship and understanding of promoting the welfare and interests of the peasants."

"Illegal arrest, arbitrary detention, malicious imprisonment of criminal acts and torture are not only prohibited under the duly enacted laws but also under the provisions of the Constitution and international human rights laws," they said.

In House Resolution No. 1245, the lawmakers said there was a need to investigate the truth behind the claims of the five arrested men that they were physically harassed by their military and police captors while undergoing interrogation. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mayor defends order on night clubs

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Braulio Yaranon defended his order regulating the operations of bars and nightclubs in the city amid criticisms from readers, bar owners and several councilors.

He said the Implementation of Administrative Order 114, which limited the operating hours of local bars, nightclubs and establishments selling liquor and wine, was "necessary."

"In the face of the city, it is necessary to impose such regulations," Yaranon told the Inquirer.

"It is not humble position that the executive authority grants itself as the city mayor as that executive to issue [ordinances] that complies with it implied authority to issue reasonable regulations in the absence of legislation," he said in response to statements.

Councilor Cato Reyyan wanted AO 114 to become part of the city's liquor code as the existing ordinance did not specify the closing hours of establishments offering liquor in their premises. The order fixed the closure of bars at midnight and of nightclubs at 2 a.m.

A 2004 amendment to the 1987 Liquor Code did not limit hours of operation among such establishments and AO 114 vested RE in the area, Reyyan said.

But the city councilor, in a 14-1 vote on April 24, junked Reyyan's proposal. Beverly Castillo and Andrew Alamo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAILY ATTIRE
A Kankana-ey woman villager proudly wears his native costume while conducting pasaway-ay to her native Sagada from the hometown meeting during the Panagbenga Festival in Baguio today, Mayor Victor Domogan, which opened on May 19 and will run until May 21.

Violence claiming more victims among Sulu folk

JOLO, SULU—MORE AND MORE Tausugs are dying violently, according to records compiled by the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO).

Dr. Farrah Omar, IPHO Sulu director, said during a six-year period from 2000, the number of those who died from bullets, knife-tips or explosives reached 159.

Sulu is one of the provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), where loose firearms abound.

Feuds between warring families often ended in shootouts as guns are easily acquired.

The island province is also a known lair of the Abu Sayyaf, a self-styled Islamic armed group blamed for increasing attacks on civilians.

While counting second only to Tawi-tawi, which claimed 202 lives since 2000, as the top casualty of attack in the island province, Omar said that violence remains a serious concern.

"It is really sad to note that a number of people are dying of violent causes," Omar said.

She said the figure on death by violence could be higher considering that Muslims bury their dead within 24 hours.

Some Muslim families, she said, do not report their fatalities to authorities.

Gov. Benjamin Loong said the people of Sulu have become used to violence and are no longer bothered by it.

Others say the causes of death among the Tausugs are gunrunning with 156 cases; diarrhea with 123 and vehicular accidents with 113 cases.

Omar blamed the poor road network in the province and the unsafe design of public utility vehicles for the road accidents. Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cebu buses increase fare

CEBU CITY—BUS OPERATORS IN SOUTHern Cebu have increased their fare to offset the spiraling prices of fuel.

They have been collecting P6 for the first five kilometers and additional P1 for every succeeding kilometer since Monday. Minibuses will adjust their rates on June 1.

Nick Villahermosa, president of the Cebu Provincial Bus Operators Association (CPBOA), said they decided to implement the new rate after the prices of diesel hit the P56 per-liter level on May 8.

The increase in minibus fare is still below the rates allowed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), which is P8.50 for the first 5 km and P1.35 for every succeeding km.

Before the new rate was implemented, buses operating in southern Cebu had been collecting P5.50 for the first 5 km and 80 centavos for every succeeding km based on an agreement between bus operators and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia last year.

Villahermosa said the bus operators were supposed to implement the new rates last May 1 but Garcia was able to persuade them to hold the increase in abeyance until the prices of diesel reached P56 per liter.

There are over 30 bus operators who are managing over 200 units in the entire province. But the new rates only apply to the over 100 buses plying the southern route, which are managed by 18 operators.

Villahermosa said they also met yesterday with the minibus operators headed by Julie Flores to ensure that they would also collect the same fare.

Flores' group has about 50 units plying Carcar town, about 40 km south of this city. They agreed to implement the same rate starting June 1. Florencio Hagadhorn, PDI Visayas Bureau

5th Asian and Oceanian Myology Center Annual Convention

12th Philippine Neurological Association Midyear Convention

Joint Meeting, May 24-27, 2006 at Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa, Mactan, Cebu, Philippines

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association as you hold your 5th Asian and Oceanian Myology Center (AOMC) Meeting and Midyear Convention.

I laud the PNA for bringing together physicians dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the delivery of neurological care, education and research. I welcome this meeting and convention for formulating new approaches and modes of technology for treating inflammatory neuromuscular disorders, peripheral neuropathies, myasthenia and other muscle disorders common among our Filipinos.

I hope that through this event, our local neurologists and medical specialists will be equipped with more knowledge and skills. New improved treatment will surely redound to the benefit of our people.

I ask you to work with me in a common quest for a better future. Your cooperation and participation is needed. Building is needed for the advancement of our society.

Together, let us lead the table. Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Manila

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Neurological Association (PNA) as they hold the 5th Asian and Oceanian Myology Meeting and 2006 Midyear Convention.

Your continued commitment to the promotion of neurological care, neuroscience and also to the Asian and Oceania Regions have greatly contributed to providing neuroscientific health care for people afflicted with neurology disorders.

As you have set building a strong foundation of stability and integrity that will serve as inspiration to your members and colleagues, may you remain steadfast in your dignity as you have successfully done with excellence and honor.

I expect all of you to support our government's health programs as we move to achieve a healthy and productive nation.

Congratulations and mabuhay having taken!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure to welcome you to participate in the 2006 joint convention of the Asian Oceanian Myology Center and the Philippine Neurological Association. The impetus to gathered from the friends of both organizations will be the crafting of a scientific program that will entice participants not only in Neurology but also to attend fields such as Rehabilitation Medicine, Rheumatology, Pathology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics and others.

We are thank the members of the organizing committee for their valuable efforts in making the convention occasion a reality for all of us. Thus, let us all experience scientific quality and the social events from the beautiful Cebu that we offer.

Thank you very much. Mabuhay Sabuhay po.

Byron
PROF. LUIS LU, AC-RE, BCN, USEN
MD, PhD, DO, DrH, FCCP
AOMC President

NORBERTO B. ROXAS, MD, FPCP, FPNA
Past President & Bd. P. AOMC
17th PNA Midyear Convention Chairman

Greetings!

Muscle diseases pose an increasingly important challenge to the medical community. To strengthen the understanding of both the basic and clinical knowledge of these diseases, the Scientific Committee has carefully assembled a prestigious group of experts from the Asian Oceanian region to speak on each array of topics with focus on the inflammatory myopathies, periodic paralyses and the channelopathies in which recent research advances have made improved diagnoses and treatment. We have added the Chinese Pathology Conference on Muscle Biopsies, a unique forum where participants will provide clarification and hence categorization of the patients' diseases.

Come and learn with us!

Sabuhay Kabisaya
ALICIA RODRIGO, MD, PhD
Chairman, Scientific Committee
5th AOMC Convention and
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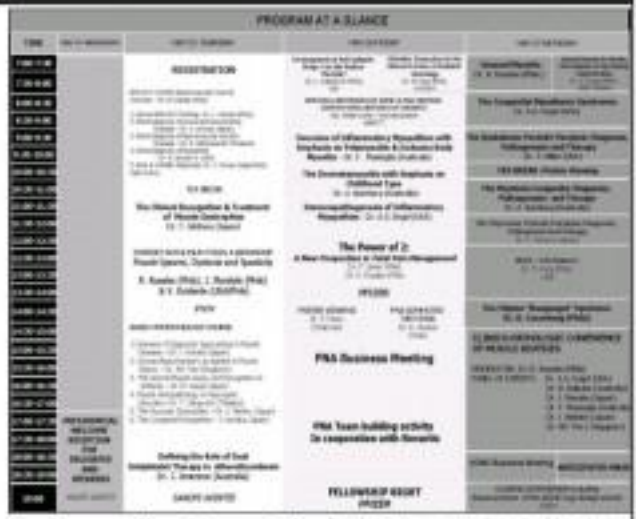
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



Understanding Nerve Pain

People usually associate pain with some physical manifestation and to make the pain go away, people instinctively treat the obvious cause. When you bump your head, you apply cold compress on the bump. When you get a jolted with hot water, you treat the burn with ointment. However, there is a type of pain that cannot easily be seen and, thus, cannot easily be treated.

"Nerves can also generate pain, and this type of pain, known as Neuropathic Pain, often doesn't go away easily. As against Nociceptive Pain generally induced by tissue injury, Neuropathic Pain is spontaneous and can be frustrating to treat," said Dr. Raymond Rosales of the Special Interest Group for Neuropathic Pain (SIGN-P).

Neuropathic or nerve pain is a type of chronic pain — one that lasts for a long time, caused by a disease of the peripheral or central nervous systems, and often misdiagnosed. Common descriptors of this type of pain include the following: "burn/shot," "mahapdi," "manhid," "malakuryente," "tarayom na gumagapang," "parang kuryente" among others. The pain can last indefinitely, escalate over time and result in pain related stress like anxiety, depression, anxiety and, in some cases, severe disability. People who suffer from Neuropathic Pain say that the chronic pain can be so severe that they have trouble performing day-to-day activities, even sleeping. As a result, they experience problems with family and personal relationships.

According to Dr. R. Rosales, the most common causes of Neuropathic Pain are Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy (a complication of Diabetes Mellitus) and Postherpetic Neuralgia (a complication of shingles).

Spinal cord conditions and cancer chemotherapy may also cause Neuropathic Pain. Dr. R. Rosales said that when a patient comes to him complaining of pain that has no known cause, he would usually ask some specific questions to help him define the type of pain involved.

Do you have who accompanying conditions such as diabetes, shingles, kidney disease or have you taken medications that potentially damage nerves? How would you describe the pain? Is your pain worse at any time of the day or night? Is the pain triggered by minor irritation, such as rubbing against the sheets at night? Is the pain starting from both feet spreading to both hands (typical of Diabetic Neuropathy), or is happening in one side of the body (typical of Post Stroke Central Neuropathic Pain)?

The goal of pain management is to improve function, enabling individuals to work, attend school or participate in other day-to-day activities. "We should remember that whatever the treatment regimen, pain can be taken away," said Dr. R. Rosales. But there are times when the analgesic array of non-narcotic analgesics like Acetaminophen, Aspirin, Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) have little effect on Neuropathic Pain, the confusion by saying that different classes of medicines have been developed recently to help alleviate the Neuropathic Pain suffering of people.

Studies show that Opioids can safely relieve many types of Neuropathic Pain, but should be taken with care.

The good news is that there is hope for Neuropathic Pain sufferers. Dr. R. Rosales concluded that while this type of chronic pain is often difficult to treat, new medicines and better therapeutic approaches are now available. "It is great to know that active researches in this area and around the country paving the way to provide improved and quality care in pain management."

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Davao's women of faith

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

WHEN MOST RURAL WOMEN ARE PREOCcupied with worries and lots of household chores, the women of the small village of New Loon in Mintal District in Davao City have put hard work and faith together to survive.

Their lives, although characterized by simplicity by any outsider's standards, are reflective of what empowerment means.

The strength, a entry to a stoic, downsized society, is coupled by their continued trust in their capacity, not only as homemakers but also as partners of their husbands in building their family.

Since the members of the New Hope Women's Organization, which was formed in 1995. The organization was largely misunderstood, with its members even suspected of being influenced by if not having connections with, the Left.

"They did not understand us. Some also refused to understand us and those who said their suspicion were husbands of our members or some immediate members of their respective families... I think they could not get the idea of women working together, organizing," said group president Josefa Ejandra.

"People here also resorted to branding us and began posing the word 'Sir' (comrade) before our names. They called me Ka-Seng-Seng," she added. Seng-Seng is Ejandra's nickname.

Ejandra said this skepticism emanated from the idea of allowing women to lead, of helping themselves and designing projects for them and members of the community. The shoes, she said, was now on all of them.

"But just as how we organization is called, the original members of 21 held tight to the small hope that we all promised to each other the moment we started this organization. And later, the little hope grew just as our boss did," Ejandra said of her group with more than 30 active members now.

The group is engaged in backyard organic farming, livestock raising and small-scale money lending for its members. As the most active people's organization in New Loon, the group was also instrumental in the establishment of the New Hope Day Care Center that caters to the educational needs of more than 45 pre-school children now.

A few years after the establishment of the educational facility the women's group was also able to lobby with the barangay council for the release of a monthly stipend for the day care teachers.

Asked how much money they have, Ejandra said earlier personally thus they were able to so far save P1,000.

The group, perhaps compared to other people's organization, cannot boast of fat accounts and prominent, tangible projects but of their ability to provide their respective families with the most basic need of all—food.

And they don't just provide the food, the women provide safe food, isolated with synthetic chemicals that most mothers downstream buy from the supermarkets and prepare and consume at home. In fact, they are even selling some of their organic vegetables and fruits via the non-members of the community.

And this is because of the group's Food Always in the Home Diethi gardening program.

Carmencita Mangolian, 48, says that their no longer worry about having or not having food for their family after they engaged in faith gardening.

"We no longer worry about whether we have something to eat or not. It has also become a good source of income. Look around us and you will see what I mean," Mangolian said of his backyard garden planted to herbs and vegetables like cayote, string beans, squash, and other plants known for their medicinal content, such as Tawa Tawa, Sabu Sabu, Lagundi, Tuning-guhat and Ampalaya.

The organization is also engaged in producing herbal medicine, tea mixture, Biwa-Tawa, which is effective for dengue fever, is being cryo-utilized, dried or boiled. They also process their pesticides and fertilizers.

"It's all organic here. No deadly substances or anything that we know could destroy the environment and are dangerous to our health. We do not spray synthetic chemicals but we spray our own organic concoctions. We also have sprong plants that can use arsenic as insects," she added.

The group is supported by the upliftment of the Moral, Economic, Technological, Socio-spiritual aspirations of Men and Women United, a non-government organization advocating the holistic development of every individual and the protection of the environment.

Virginia Macalolon of Metro said their group backed the women's empowerment because of its potential to advance the cause of empowering women, especially their productive sector of the community.

"This is a relatively strong organization. Important mechanisms are in place now. There is a comprehensive leaders and the members," Macalolon said.

Ejandra, whose liberation described as a hands-on leader, is also the president of the Kalas Sang Ili Kilos Ca Matuba team for empowered women) composed of 21 women groups, one of which is the New Hope Women's Organization.

Friendship

"What is so good about this project is that they know that money is not the sole answer to their woes and problems. They know that they can solve their problems if they help themselves and help each other. Simple mathematics of loving," Macalolon said.

"We have all reasons to be proud about this group," she added.

The members agreed that money is actually the least of their concerns.

"All we want is for us to dwell, up our self-esteem and that we are each other really empowered," Ejandra said.

And what else could communities women share with each other?

"We are poor but we are all friends. We believe in each other and in ourselves," Ejandra said.

ADVOCATES of a safe food for good health and sound environment, these women from Davao City help each other go through with their daily lives by engaging in organic farming, among others.

THIS woman shows how a crystallized "Tawa-Tawa" is produced. The plant is known as an effective cure to dengue fever.

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BOTTLED bio-fertilizers produced by Kasigma are displayed during a fair in Claveria town.

OFFICERS of Kalanggaman sa Tigbaong Mag-uuma (Kasigma) teach farmers how to produce their own organic fertilizers and explain the benefits of organic farming during an agriculture fair at the front of Barangay Lakandiri. The parent unit of farmers on May 11 in Claveria town. PHOTO COURTESY OF KALANGGAMAN SA TIGBAONG MGA MAGUUMA

Tigbao farmers produce, sell organic fertilizer

By Michael F. Sarsaga
Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur

MANY FARMERS HERE used to be so poor they could not buy farm inputs without help from loan sharks.

Their situation started to change when a group of farmers sought to free themselves from debt by going organic instead of using commercial chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Members of the Kalanggaman sa Tigbaong Mag-uuma (Kasigma), or the Association of Tigbao Farmers, have been using the chemical-free method of cultivating their farms for three years now and had proven they would succeed without help from loan sharks who normally dictate the buying price of their products.

In fact, they now produce their own environmentally friendly rice and corn and even repellant.

"It was previously difficult for us to provide food for our families because most of our income went to debt repayment," said Kasigma chairman Orville Monteverde.

Supported by the Catholic Church's program on sustainable agriculture through the Social Action Center (SAC), Kasigma started in 2003 with 13 members, who were then invited to visit the Church's Basic Christian Community (BCC).

"There some were to consult farms in other places and learned to organic fertilizer making. We also helped them become organized until they were able to manage and multiply existing more farmers," said Nady Aspra, sustainable agriculture coordinator of the Pagadian diocese.

At present, several farmers organizations espousing organic farming would be formed in the area.

Their number continues to increase because those who became successful shared their stories with other farmers and even donated their land as orientation sites.

"We have attracted other farmers into organic farming because they found out we were no longer worrying about food and were able to break away from debts," said Bonifacio Consolacion of Macogong village.

In sustainable farming, they are not forced to borrow money anymore, he said.

Another important effect of his being debt-free now is that he is able to send his children to school, he added.

To produce the fertilizers farmers use leftovers such as rice straw and corn stalks and leaves of shrubs and bushes that grow everywhere.

They also use animal wastes, broken refuse tools, as blood meal bones from fish and other animals, and ash from charcoal.

"The ingredients for organic fertilizers are found in the farm and nearby," Monteverde said.

"What's farmers needs is the knowledge to produce a balanced mix of ingredients to produce the right amount of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium that are essential for bringing back the soil and soil condition."

To help them get abundant supply of materials for their organic fertilizers soaking, Kasigma convinced the Tigbao town council to ban the burning of rice straws and corn stalks.

"These are useful in making compost for organic fertilizers. By recycling them, we can eliminate the open burning practice, which is dangerous and environmentally hazardous," Monteverde said.

As for combating pests, the farmers mix herbs and spices such as garlic, onion, ginger, chilies and tuba sugar and lime.

Aspra said the use of inorganic fertilizers chemicals reduced the soil fertility.

He said this makes farmers dependent on expensive fertilizers that are beyond their budgets.

Aspra said commercial pesticides also kill not only pests but some they eliminate helpful insects.

Bonifacio Mingkinang, another Tigbao farmer, said they would fulfill their "moral obligation of taking care of the land that gives life by preserving it for the next generation."

"We don't own the land. It is given by God to provide us our needs and in return, we have to take care of it," he said.

Mayorga Jr. said his office in Lesley Iyoso Barrio could the produce buying rice produced by organic farmers because it is healthy and free from harmful chemicals.

"It is a little expensive than rice produced using commercial fertilizers but except I can distinguish their rice," Barrio said.

Monteverde admitted that their produce was about P100 more expensive than a sack of commercially grown rice.

But with more people becoming conscious of what they eat, their market has been expanding, he said.

"The role of sustainable agriculture program in the diocese did not only help poor farmers in organic farming, it also helped them market their products. Organic farmers are rewarded with a higher price for their products because there is a high consumer preference for rice or corn, which are organically produced," said Aspra.

To increase the marketability of their products they are considering the putting up of a cooperative, Monteverde said.

"Once the cooperative is established we will have facilities such as trucks to transport their products to the market. We will also be able to put up our own rice and corn milling facilities," he said.

KATIGMA chair Orville Monteverde shows onlookers pictures of organic fertilizers that the group produced during the agriculture fair.

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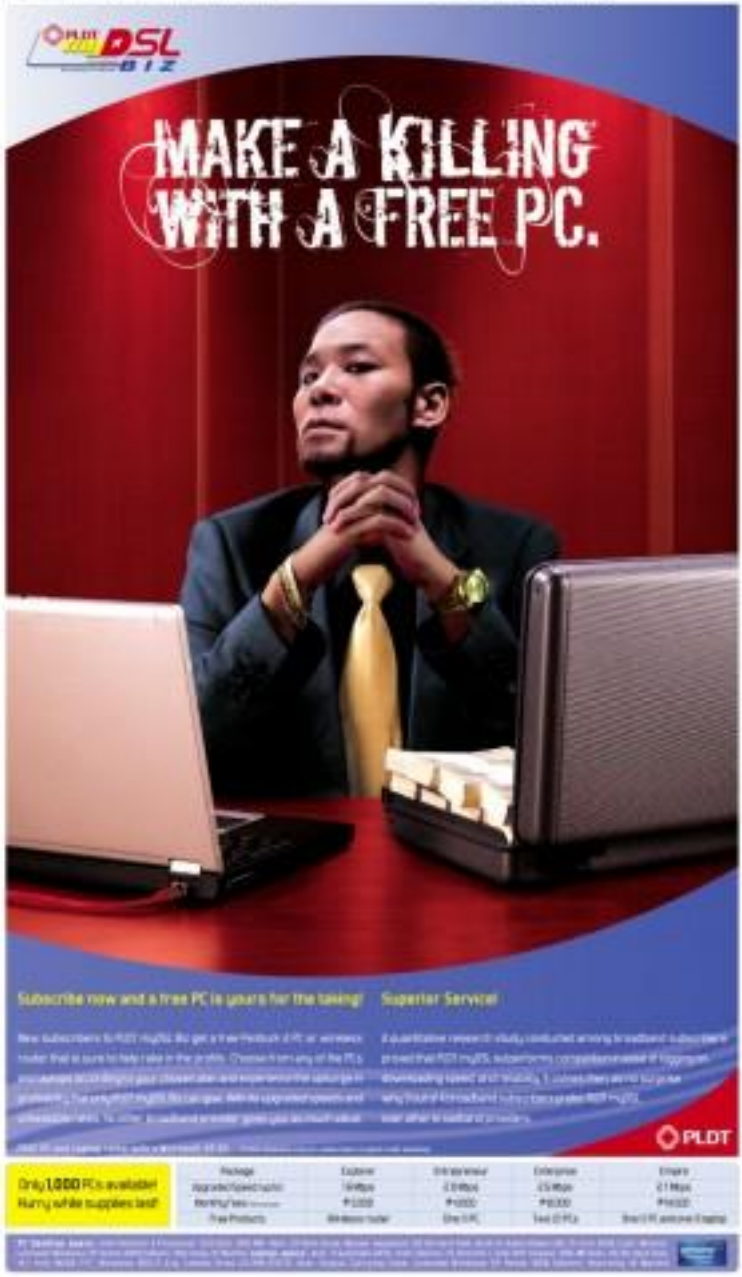
NEWS

AN EVICTION room service sat the belongings of retired officers from their quarters in Fort Bonifacio. Pandan attended to the removal as some officers refused to leave. AFP PHOTO

Ex-Navy brass battle eviction

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MORE THAN A THOUSAND TROOPS FROM THE NAVY AND MARINES clashed with their retired superiors over officers' quarters in Fort Bonifacio, at one point becoming violent, as military authorities reclaimed a naval housing compound yesterday.



At least one person was arrested as soldiers hauled by idle wedding troops and heavy equipment forced their way into the homes of retired generals who had refused to vacate their housing at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio to make way for active-duty troops.

Evicted were some 50 retired generals and flag officers out of a total of 98 former senior officers allegedly overstaying in the 28-hectare BNS. Seventeen of the alleged squatters had received a court injunction while 23 others were set for Tuesday's eviction.

There were also 112 encroaching enlisted personnel, the Navy said.

Before the operation, the retired officers had occupied 39 of the 49 senior officers' quarters in the BNS, including the residence of the Navy flag officer in command.

The Navy issued with a favorable legal opinion from the Office of the Solicitor General, moved in yesterday after the "final notice of eviction" issued last May 12 was mostly ignored.

'Regulations are regulations'

Navy chief Vice Admiral Rhino Mayuga was not at the site, as he left his middle-grade officers and soldiers to face the building, threats and even physical confrontation with the retired officers and their families.

Mayuga showed up briefly at the Marine grandstand where a "command post" was put up. "Regulations are regulations. All I know is that they deprived many officers [of housing]," he said, adding he also did not want his former superiors to lose face.

Throughout the morning yesterday, most of the retired officers refused to budge from their bungalow quarters even though soldiers waited outside for them to go. Only a handful avoided eviction by packing up.

The eviction did not stare stoic Marine Col. Glicerio Untalasing, ground commander for Task Force "Bulik Bahay" marshal into the BNS compound at 12:20 p.m. with his troops.

"If you're not coming with us, go home," Untalasing barked at Marines with M16s who were assigned as "security" hanged into the first bungalow, occupied by retired Marine brig. Gen. Pablito Vitug.

Vitug, dressed in his old combat uniform, tried to frighten off the eviction team, telling them, "I am a Marine. This is not a war. Look at you, carrying a gun. Shame on you."

Half-hour standoff

Two other retired officers, former brig. Gen. Brigido Paredes and former Commodore Eduardo Domingo, who had also claimed their quarters for their own, helped Vitug block the doorway.

"You load your guns and kill me and I'll show you how to die," Paredes taunted.

After a half-hour standoff where none of the officers and soldiers moved, Navy Comdr. Giovanni Records took the initiative of ordering the troops to get inside the house.

"I'm sorry sir, but our chain of command now is the PGBC [Philippine Navy]," Records said as he tried to push his way inside.

A brief scuffle broke out before the troops forced their way into the house, packing the Vitug family's belongings into cardboard boxes even their barred relocation.

Vitug threatened to file robbery charges against those involved in the eviction.

As of press time yesterday, former Commodores Arturo Cajanda and Judito Catellar, brig. Gen. Guillermo Dale and Rear Admiral Pio Custido had been evicted while their wives, grownup children and other members of the household resisted the eviction team and tried to get their names for a lawsuit.

"The PGBC should be here to answer for this. He's the one who ordered this. If he's man enough, dun he should show himself," said retired Navy Capt. Julian Adriconcha.

Proclamation No. 461

He said they had been trying to talk to Mayuga but he refused to talk to them.

The retired generals had claim to the BNS based on Proclamation No. 461 issued by the late President Diosdado Macapagal declaring parts of the Fort Bonifacio military reservation for military housing.

They were able to get a title in the name of the Naval Officers' Village Association Inc. (NOVAI) to 47.3 hectares inside Fort Bonifacio, including the Market parade grounds and the 10-hectare BNS where the officers' quarters were built.

The military has claimed NOVAI's title is void in 1992 was spurious. The Pasig court has upheld the title. The case is on appeal.

The military reservation have declared for a temporary restraining order before the Makati and Pasig courts, but these were denied.

With a report from AFP

Aplus METRO
Edna Ester G. Dipasupil
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The Philippines' Biggest Shopping Mall Opens Today in Pasay City!
Turn to section C, Lifestyle pages 1-4

Tibetan temple in Manila offers more than visual appeal

THE MAIN shrine of the Nedo Kagyu Budhi Dharma Center, one of only five Tibetan temples in the Philippines.

CHOZE Jamse, temple chanting master

Artwork by monks stand out in Sta. Mesa landscape

By Josephine Gomez
Contributor

INSIDE ONE OF THE MOST visually beautiful edifices on Magsaysay Blvd. (some street in Sta.Cruz, Sta. Mesa, Manila, there is more than the unusual architecture that draws one to the structure.

The Nedo Kagyu Budhi Dharma Tibetan Temple stands out in a community of residential houses, and cool streets and workplaces.

Its architectural design, artwork and dharma objects (which represent and are used for the practice of teachings) have meaning, purpose and power to achieve certain ends, according to Chodenpa Penpa Tenling, administrator of the temple. He is also one of four monks in the center who lead the prayer life and orientation of the temple's devotees, as well as the community at-large.

The center is one of five temples of Tibetan Buddhism in the Philippines, which can all be found in eleven months. It is, however, the only one with an authentic Tibetan design as it is patterned after the Karma Kagyu sect's main temple in Rumtek, Sikkim, India, very near Tibet.

The other four are located on Roxas Boulevard (membership: 1,000) in Quezon City; Alabang (about 50 members)

TIBETAN 434

Shining through in world of darkness

National Library's only blind librarian guards treasure trove of books in Braille

By Margaux C. Ortiz

VILMA undergoes special computer proficiency training in a school in Philadelphia.

THE MOST popular reading material in the National Library's special division are not "Harry Potter" books — in Braille.

Tibetan temple in Manila ...

From page A23

THE AMITAYUS-DEITIES that answer petitions for longevity

THE CONCH SHELL (top), one of the auspicious signs. Others are the golden fish (center) and precious parasol.

THE TORMA, a cake used as an offering, usually made from oat or barley flour.

GLOBAL Pinoy
Editor Gerry Lirio
E-mail to: global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer.gp.reports@sg.inquirer.net or 519 (Globe) or 184 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whose work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

DI dances the night away in Beijing

By Kenneth M. del Rosario
Contributor

FRITZEL "FRITZ" LABINGISA, 28, HAS BEEN working in China for almost two years now. In just a short period of time, he has literally danced his way to success and has proven that Filipino entertainers can make it big abroad.

Fritz's international dancing career began a couple of years ago, when a Filipina friend invited him, along with four other Filipino dancers, to practice and choreograph a Broadway-type Latin dance show in Beijing.

A freelance dance instructor in Manila for eight years, he was more than ready to try his luck abroad and bring his dancing career to new heights by the time he left for China in November 2004.

Getting the steps

Fritz owes his dancing skills to his Visayan parents who, according to him, share the same love for hot-for dancing.

Growing up in Dumaguete City, he started showing interest in dancing by joining modern and hip-hop dance clubs in high school. But he didn't fully realize his love for dancing until his college years when he moved to Manila in 1996.

"I never really liked dancing that much until I took ballroom classes back in college," Fritz told the Inquirer in an overseas phone interview.

He took his dancing lessons seriously and practiced regularly to hone his craft. Not long after, Latin ballroom dancer became his forte. He realized how good he actually was and that, since then, took dancing by heart.

Fritz was a computer technician by profession when he graduated from college in 1998 but never got to practice his degree. He, instead, came to become a full-time freelance dance instructor, working almost every night in different clubs in Manila.

Aside from teaching dance lessons, he also filmed instructional dance videos which featured him and his latest dancing moves. He then sold these to ballroom lessors and patrons of the ban-mah-hole he frequented.

In 1999, he became an active member of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines. A year later, he competed for his very first professional dancing competition in Manila and was able to get as far as the final round. And though he didn't win that night, he found to get better and win next time. That night, he also realized that dancing, indeed, is what he wants to do for the rest of his life.

Swing it

"Even then I was very competitive. I always try to be the best that I can be," Fritz said as he recalled how happy he was that he found fulfillment and an opportunity/happiness in dancing.

After more than a month of rigorous preparation and hard-work, the Latin dance show he choreographed in December 2004, "Swinging the night away," was a big hit in Beijing's Kerry Center Hotel where rebel prices sold up to as high as $120 each.

"Everyone was on their feet after the performance. I needed that kind of validation," he said.

For the next month after the dance show, he continued performing in several bars and clubs in Beijing before coming home to the Philippines. Even before coming home, he already knew that he wanted to go back to China and continue his dance career's amazing start.

With about a 15-day vacation with his girlfriend and soon-to-be wife Joy (her photo is many notes) and his then four-month old son, John Ivan in Paranaque, they would spend the whole time together and would go to malls and parks to catch up with each other's lives.

WINNING PAIR. Fritz and his Chinese dance partner grab onto a numerous Latin number the top prize at the 2nd Koreana Ballroom Dancing Cup 2005 in Beijing.

Back to China

He had no money all his enough when he decided to fly again to work in China.

It was hard for him to leave his family behind again. "It was a very hard thing to do but I had to do it," Fritz said, referring to the loneliness he feels every time he misses his family. "I'm doing it for them (family)."

He flew to China for the second time in July 2005. On this occasion, he immediately got a job as a dance teacher in Inland Dance Club, one of the more popular dance studios in Beijing.

There, he started teaching dance classes twice a week. "It was a welcome change from teaching one or two clients at a time in teaching a whole class all at once," he said.

By then, Fritz was already earning more than $1000 a month—enough to support his family and his two younger brothers (he has an older sister). But by October 2005, he got a much bigger offer from Western Union as a money transfer consultant.

And yet, he could never stray away too far from his true passion: his studied craftsmanship and continued teaching dance lessons. "I am a dancer first, no matter what," he said.

In less than two years, Fritz already collected several awards from different national dancing competitions all over China.

He compared and won top prizes at the Beijing Joel Romance Cup Ballroom Competition and at the Beijing Welcome Olympic Cup Ballroom Dancing, both in 2005. Add to that runner-up positions in the Southeast China Ballroom Dancing Open 2005 and at the Hangzhou National Ballroom Dancing Championship 2006, among others.

He had also received numerous invitations to perform at different dancing competitions, product launches, press conferences, school anniversaries, recording programs, and other special events.

In November 2005, he performed at the Five Beijing Salsa Festival in front of hundreds of people. Three months later, he was invited to perform at another Salsa festival, this time in Hong Kong. "And I'm not stopping," he said.

In other words, he wouldn't keep on improving his dancing skills and participating in different dancing competitions.

This early, he is considering a trip to the United States for an interview to perform at the Los Angeles Salsa Congress next year.

It's safe here

With all the accolades he has received for his dancing skills, Fritz remains humble and rooted to the ground. "I know where I stand," he said. "There is still so much I want to achieve and I feel like I'm just getting started."

He also advises Filipino entertainers who are planning to go abroad to develop self-respect. "Let's not put ourselves down. We are Filipinos and we deserve respect," he said, urging his fellow Filipinos to put their inferiority complex aside.

Fritz is also all praises to China. "It's a very good place. I have never felt in safe and secure," he said, citing how disciplined local Chinese are and how cheap the cost of living there is.

"But there is nothing like the Philippines, my home," he said.

He is looking forward to seeing his girlfriend and son again in a well-deserved and a much longer vacation to the Philippines this coming September.

With dreams of having his own dance studio in the Philippines in the near future, He would also like to capitalize on another hobby—photography, by putting up his own photo and video shop one day.

"And someday," he said, "My son is also going to be a dancer just like me."

Show brings home to Filipinos worldwide

By Tarra V. Quismorio

FILIPINOS ABROAD WOULD GET to feel like they are back home once it sails for a short time through many countries.

The "Kamustahan—a Musical & Trade Tour" is set to go on another trip starting in August to bring to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Europe and the Middle East a sampling of the entertainment they miss from home.

In the last two years, Kamustahan has visited cities in the Netherlands, England, Italy, Austria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar. This year's cross-continent tour will score for the first time Madrid and Barcelona, Spain's museum-of-treasures and coliseum.

In August, Kamustahan takes off to Middle East in November. It will go to Abu and Canada in April next year. Asia Pacific, from 1987.

A project of the Independent production outfit Star Events Inc., Kamustahan 2006 will cast 18 key cities in 30 days, bringing top local artists to about 20,000 Filipinos abroad.

Four other European cities on the Barcelona-to-Moscow tour Milan and Rome in Italy, Vienna in Austria, and London in the United Kingdom. The concert will cover Kuwait, Doha in Qatar, Muscat in Oman, and Bahrain in the UAE.

Generations

In previous years, according to Victor Rhoderick Alcuaz, president of the concert tour, "If you see Filipinos watching (the show), you might get goosebumps or even be moved to tears (or) you are overwhelmed."

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) is sponsoring the event again, while the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration would provide "moral support."

Alcuaz said tickets are priced at $10-$15 to allow more OFWs to watch the show. Among the performers expected to join this year's tour are Ogie Alcasid, Rico J. Puno, Bituin Escalante, Julius Magsalungad, Francis Magsalona and Hussein Enriquez.

"Kamustahan is about having fun with one another," he said. "It's not just about making money."

AP CELEBS TAKE CENTER STAGE. APO Hiking Society's Boboy Garrovillo, Danny Javier, and Jim Paredes stand poised before an all-Filipino crowd in Kamustahan 2005 in Kuwait.

BROADCASTER TURNED SINGER. Angelique Lazo dishes out a Filipino love song in Bahrain.

3rd annual tour

Now on its third annual tour, Kamustahan revives the concept behind "Hotel Pinoy," an annual overseas musical tour in the '80s that also featured Filipino artists and comedians.

The late comedian Rey "Bentot" Pinlac headed the troupe. Sponsored by the government, the program, as its name suggested, aimed to bring cheers (and OFWs)

... also supported by Owwa, Hotel Says brought to Europe the Middle East and Asia Pacific such artists as Nina Gonzalez, Eraña, the late Ricky Belmonte, Gloria Gil, The Body Shop Duo, The Angkopanitos, singalong Lass, the late Bienvenido Marcelan, Bessa Villa and many others.

Biggest hit

"It was always big ... we would bring seven to eight artists. But the biggest hit ever was Hotel [Asian] in 1996," Alcuaz said.

The program was discontinued during the 1991 Gulf War.

A private entertainment company looked by Owwa to co-produce the last two Hotel Says events in 2004 and 2005. Star Events Inc., revived the spirit of Hotel Says with Kamustahan.

Alcuaz recalled that during the 1989 Hotel Says of Hotel Says, his group found with the challenge of accommodating a factual larger than expected.

To accommodate all those who were eager to watch their idols, three shows, instead of one, were held on the second day.

In 2004, Hotel Says was back, repackaged into the bigger Kamustahan.

Bigger than ever

Star Events established partners in regular base cities which enabled it to find events big enough for its steadily growing audience.

GENEVIA CRUZ gives her all in 2005 Middle East tour.

"We ask [partner organizations] to look for a venue accessible to OFWs, places that are realistic or easy to find," he said.

Last year, Kamustahan organizers had its largest audience, when almost 5,000 Filipinos watched the show in Kuwait.

Even before it can start its 2006 tour, Star Events is already preparing for a bigger Kamustahan in 2007, covering four continents and visiting major cities in North America, Asia and the Pacific, in addition to Europe and the Middle East.

Alcuaz said it would be a whole day affair, with a fiesta theme. Kamustahan 2006 tour plans gaming games, talent and beauty contests.

Filipino entrepreneurs could have booths in what would be like a "bazaar." Even traders from Manila could join.

A NATURAL CROWD FAVORITE. Nanette Inventor receives warm welcome after show in 2005 Middle East tour.

Filipino-Americans more interested in Mega than GMA

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINO-AMERICANS ARE MORE likely to ask divas Kapuso Queen Gloria than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

For Filipinos in America, entertainment is clearly more interesting than politics.

On a visit to my sister and cousins living in the United States East Coast three years ago, the Filipinos I met were more eager to learn about what happened to Kris Aquino and Ivory Mesquita.

At that time, the Philippines had just survived the Oakwood mutiny and was getting ready for the 2004 presidential elections.

Source of relaxation

But they were not much to the sensations made by Aquino, daughter of a shadow-dy boss and ex-president, against Jose Hocapan City Mayor Morales' proposed increase that exempted painting a gun to his head.

Aquino also tearfully announced she had contracted a sexually transmitted disease from him.

Aquino, the plain-tossed cousin, Bayai Robert, allowed a couple exhilarating last week for this morning and Showcase to Philippine performers/entertainers.

"We work so hard here. We have problems of our own. Bringing (updates) on Pinoy showbiz has become our source of entertainer," he said.

Robert added, "I'm startled you asking about Cher Tolentino but I didn't even ask how GMA was."

My cousin, who's a little over 40 and has lived in the US nearly half his life, also said that among those with The Filipino Channel (TFC), soap operas and news time share "like 'Showcase' and 'Game Ka Ba Ba?'" and happy audiences than the news.

Galing ng Pulad

The past months, Robert writes up to "Galing ng Pulad" on TFC news/entertainment.

He worries in how and his children's ears never enter the Kristine Hermosa-TJ Trinidad tandemites.

"They also watch the other soap operas and the Filipino channel," he said. "Minsan nanonood sila—sinabi 'yung mga movies sabaw pagod pa si Sharon," Robert chuckled.

My cousin's son complaining because TFC also provides him his daily testimonies here—except during the National Basketball Association season. He's had TFC, which charges $23 a month, for four channels and two radio stations, for two years.

LIKE any other Filipino in a strange land, Pinoy Pinoy and sales store see for a picture-taking session with concert producer Robert Dizon and friends.

His youngest sister, Jocelyn, has subscribed to TFC for four years running.

"We also get homesick. When we watch TFC, it's just like being there in the Philippines ," he said.

Having TFC allow them to keep abreast of the latest showbiz happenings, from juicy "intrigues" to the Pinoy movies they should watch out for in Fil-Am video stores.

With TFC, ABS-CBN's own cable channel, and the Internet, Filipinos no longer have to rely only on Filipino community newspapers to transmit news to get the latest showbiz news.

"When they moved TFC, that's when Pinoy artists became more visible and popular among Fil-ams in the US," Robert said.

Live concerts

Our Ambeyan got to see Pinoy superstars in person through live concerts.

Robert himself produces stars, and shows, the latest Sarsing comedy comic Bey Simonette.

"It's among when you see all these Filipinos in one place. It feels like home. Always would bring their American spouses and they can relate to the Filipino themes, especially in a concert where like Rex's," he said.

"It's a lot of hard work but it's addicting, especially if the concert, like the one of Rex, gets sold out," he added.

"It's cute to have three artists over ... but it's also taking a toll on Fil-Am producers like me," he said.

Robert said his concerts and producers in the Philippines who "sell" concerts to Fil-Am producers were changing them too much money now.

"They know there is a demand ... but our Fil-Am audiences also has a budget for these concerts. Hindi naman pinapaubo ang pera dito. We all work for it. Everybody pays rent," Robert said.

Robert said a concert now cost between $50,000 to $50,000. "To break even, we have to charge almost $75 per ticket. That's a lot of money," he said.

Rubbing elbows with stars

With snowballing becoming a "growing problem," Fil-Am producers in New York organized themselves to address the problem together.

"They now have an association to avoid snowballing and having concerts every month because then they don't want to patronize the market," Robert said.

Despite the difficulties, Robert said he still wants to produce concerts and expresses hope that their Philippine counterparts would offer reasonable concert packages.

"I wanted to bring over Sarah Geronimo because that's my favorite, too. But her concert package price was way too much for me," Robert, the fan, said.

One thing beneficial for Fil-Am producers is they also get to talk/rub elbows with their favorite stars.

Singers Regine Velasquez had dinner over in the house of Robert's other sister, Marjorie.

"Sometimes celebrities I believe I met Juny Alberti and Marnie Pascua in person, if Juny Albert, reminder for me, we met-met at Pinoy Night, October, in the Philippines, I only got to see her on TV. It's quite surreal," Robert laughed.

Fil-Am fans are not much different from fans here at home.

Shakedown Robert is when I was finding Pinky Bustard, his son one of the first concerts I produced. *Talagang mahangan ako sa mga kabar sa Pinoy dinner together, magpa-picture, magpa-autograph?*" Robert said.

As we talked, in the background I could hear my seven-old nephew, Paolo, singing the Dream Gun song, "Mr. Dreamboy."

'KONEK KA DIYAN'

How to link lives and loves across the world

By Lolit B. Salvanera

CHILDREN NEGLECTING THEIR education in the absence of parents. A father turning to alcohol or to other women. A wife being true in her homeland.

All these problems could result from the lack of communication between an overseas Filipino worker and his family or from the worker's loneliness in a foreign country.

"Separation from her families is one of the major obstacles that most of our OFWs encounter," said Administrator Manuelo Roque of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa).

But to strengthen the ties between a family and an OFW and to avoid the troubles that could arise from separation, Roque has a simple solution: Keep in touch regularly.

Building ties

"Quality communication strengthens the family bond," he said. "If there is no communication, then problem sets in."

Roque made the statements at the press launch last month of the "Konek ka diyan" program, which is spearheaded by Owwa and Microsoft Philippines and aims to help OFW families purchase personal computer that they could use at home to keep in touch with loved ones abroad.

The program's goal is to help forge better relations between the OFW and his family by enabling them to have a new avenue for communication.

Roque said a personal computer is needed up to the internet is an effective tool to reach people abroad, and it is also less costly compared to other forms of communication like phone calls or short messaging system (SMS), popularly known as "texting."

"SMS texting and voice calls can be very expensive. They're one of the most expensive ever from down against OFWs' salaries," he said.

But through a computer with internet, Roque said OFWs and families could talk or send e-mail everyday so that they would know what was going on in each other's lives.

Thank God for PCs

A monthly internet subscription can cost less than P1,000, while a prepaid internet card with 20 free hours costs P450. A text message sent abroad could cost P15 each, while cellular calls usually cost P8-10 per minute.

With the funds to those purchase, Owwa members could buy personal computers offered by Microsoft using the Family Assistance Loan from the Owwa.

Microsoft is offering three computer packages, the prices of which range from P24,200 to P30,000. The computers will come equipped with a web cam, a modem and a headset.

For every personal computer sold, Microsoft will also contribute a dollar to the Owwa Scholarship Fund, said Microsoft Philippines Inc. managing director Antonio Javier Jr.

Javier said the Konek ka diyan! program is meant to ease the loneliness of OFWs by "bridging the physical divide between them and their families." He said Microsoft has learned that loneliness is a major OFW problem because it leads to the disintegration of families.

We recognize the hardships that our OFWs go through abroad and somehow, we want to ease their difficulties by offering the means to stay connected to their families," he said.

Roque said the Owwa would be targeting to help around 10,000 individuals with the Konek ka diyan! program in a one-year period.

Also participating in the program are Intel Philippines and PLDT.

In US, cash, controversy over high blood pressure

By Stephanie Saul

THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMpanies donated $326,000 to a medical society that used most of the money on a series of dinner lectures last year to brief doctors on the latest news about high blood pressure.

The dinner meetings—in Aspen, Phoenix and Steamboat—also gave the money that the medical society used to honor two of the main talking points of those lectures, an unpublished campaign of high blood pressure that many doctors say would increase the number of people taking drugs.

The seven dinners at Bally's Chris Steak Houses around the country are just one example of why the small medical society, the American Society of Hypertension, has been in the midst of a dispute over the influence of drug industry money.

"This is about the unsystematic use of medicine," Dr. Michael H. Alderman, a past president of the organization, said in a recent interview.

"The multi of the matter is that we have many members who are leaders in our society who are making well into the six figures from their pharmaceutical companies supported activities," said Dr. Jose S. Acuña a biochemist and a longtime blood pressure researcher affiliated with Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

Acuña was told in late to be president of the country, but he resigned from the board after the controversy.

Controlling blood pressure has long been a mainstay of the pharmaceutical industry. About 65 million Americans have high blood pressure and had a $17 billion annual market in drugs for hypertension, that 50 million other people are on the borderline, and many doctors believe the new definitions of hypertension could make drugs a standard treatment for many of them, dramatically expanding the potential drug market. AFP

After 13 years, China completes Three Gorges dam at Yangtze

DISTANT view of the Three Gorges hydropower project under construction on the Yangtze River in May 14 photo.

Nevertheless, critics continue to argue that all build-up and other problems mean the dam will fail to provide the hoped for flood relief.

Opponents also say damage to the environment, ruin to China's heritage and misery to local residents forced from their homes for the project.

However, harnessing the power of China's mightiest rivers is a dream harbored by generations of Chinese.

In the early 20th century, Sun Yat-sen, the founder of modern China, wanted hydroelectric-erecting electricity that would be the equivalent of the strength of hundreds of millions of men.

Mao Zedong, the founder of communist China, wrote a poem hailing a dam that would come true. In the fabric "riddle the goddess of the Three Gorges with the mist. One of the modern world."

It is no longer just the craft of poetry. On the left bank, 14 sets of 700-megawatt turbines and generator units are already in operation.

On the right bank, another 12 700-megawatt units are under construction.

With a capacity already equivalent to Itaipu on the border of Brazil and Paraguay currently the world's largest operating hydro-electric dam, the Three Gorges will eventually overshadow all others. AFP

Good-bye, Mr. Chips at UK schools

LONDON - BRITISH EDUCATION Secretary Alan Johnson roared on Friday to stop feeding pupils the "unhealthy food they have been given for decades" with new rules cutting levels of sugar, fat and salt in English school meals.

Before taking effect in September will ban low-quality sweets, chips and chocolate, require pupils to eat at least two portions of fruit and vegetables with every meal, and limit them to two portions of French fries a week.

The nutritional standards bill low a high-profile drive by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, who hosted a popular television program in 2005 that illustrated the poor quality pre-packaged, fatty foods prepared in many school canteens.

The standards apply only to English schools since the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland set separate policies for schools.

Johnson said the new standards "will start to undo decades of neglect and ensure that healthy eating is the norm in every school."

The initiative would also promote diet, nutrition, food preparation and cooking as part of the curriculum, he added. AFP

Free Admission

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Panibagong *Paraan* 2006

Development with Equity

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The Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace, or ***Panibagong Paraan*** (New Ways), is about fresh perspectives, new ways of doing things, people working as one for positive change. Innovative projects and ideas presented by communities and ordinary citizens inspire, bring hope, and strengthen pride in the Filipino. Like the rays of the sun, these small examples, ideas and sentiments for positive change – when adopted, replicated and scaled up – can gradually radiate to other segments and communities of the country, and illuminate the path to development that benefits all, and not just a few.

With the theme, *Development with Equity*, Panibagong Paraan 2006 explores ways of equalizing opportunities – so that all Filipinos can have a chance for a better life and together, work for the nation's development. Development with equity means addressing issues on incomes, assets, services and voice.

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS, POLICIES, AND IMAGES: Rays of Hope towards Equalizing Chances for All

- *Exhibit of 67 innovative projects from across the country:* Finalists for the Project Grant Competition exhibit and explain their project concepts to the public in a bangga (bazaar) of ideas. Around 50 winners, to be selected by jury, will each receive up to PhP 1 million to implement their projects over a one-year period.
- *Showcase of ideas:* The two-day event will recognize winning entries in the Expression of Ideas competition through – a continuing exhibit of photos depicting images of development with equity, a mini-forum on winning policy proposals, and a display of excerpts of winning essays, capped by the slogans that were selected as best capturing the theme.
- *Multi-sectoral forum on Development with Equity:* a plenary session and roundtable discussions on how to replicate and scale up projects that address inequalities.
- *Helpful knowledge sharing sessions for micro and small social entrepreneurs and policy advocates.*

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quonio

'When will this stop?' Blasts kill 24 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—BOMBS KILLED 24 PEOPLE IN IRAQ on Saturday including 19 in a Shiite district of Baghdad, hours before Iraq's parliament was to inaugurate a national unity government aimed at halting a slide toward civil war.

Police said 58 were wounded in the blast targeting Shiite laborers in eastern Sadr City slum. It was typical of beatings by Sunni Islamists like Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq.

Witnesses and police said the bomb appeared to have been planted in a spot where the attackers knew large crowds of men would gather shortly after dawn, hoping to be hired for a day's casual labor. Such spots have been targeted in the past.

"When will this stop? Where is the government?" one teenager sobbed as he stood amid pools of blood. A man beat his face with his hands as he hugged his dead brother lying on the floor.

Survivors rushed the wounded to hospital. A dozen bodies, their faces covered with cardboard, lay on the hospital garden.

In the town of Qaim, near the Syrian border, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-packed vest inside a police station killing five policemen and wounding 10, police said.

Parliament had been due to sit at 11 a.m. to approve a government that may hold full sovereign power for the four-year term of the legislature, but last-minute negotiations delayed the session.

A new government should end months of interim amid mounting sectarian bloodshed and talk of impending civil war.

Launching a crucial new phase in the US-backed project to install democracy, Shiite Prime Minister Ibrahi al-Jaafari struck a basic deal on Friday that left the key posts of interior and defense minister vacant, aides and top negotiators said.

There may be some fine-tuning at the last minute but, with jobs for nearly all parliamentary groups, the assembly's approval for Maliki's ministers is likely to be a formality.

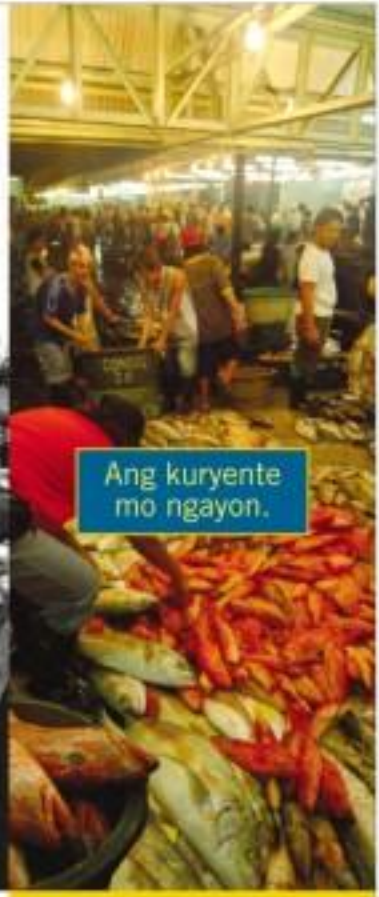
Iraqi leaders hailed a government of Sunni Arabs, Kurds and Shiites as a break from Iraq's past, marked by confrontation.

"It is an historic day for Iraq and all Iraqis," Deputy Parliament Speaker Khalid al-Attiya told reporters conference.

"For the first time a permanent national government is formed after the toppling of the regime. All Iraqis participate in this government."

The government can be cast of an enthusiastic welcome to Muslim region, where frustration with Iraqis' sectarian and political bickering has grown over the five months since an election hailed as a final step from Saddam Hussein's dictatorship to democracy.

But President George W. Bush, who launched the invasion in 2003, publicly a key to bringing home 130,000 US troops. Reuters



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Mullah Dadullah believed captured in Afghan clashes

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—FIERCE BATtles raged in Afghanistan Saturday with a US soldier, two Afghan troops and six Taliban the latest to die in the heaviest fighting in the country for years.

Officials were meanwhile trying to establish if a seriously wounded one-legged militant captured after heavy gun battle was Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah, said to be one of the brains behind the insurgency.

DADULLAH

A new battle involving about 100 soldiers and an equal number of Taliban erupted in southern Helmand province late Friday and continued late Saturday military officials said.

The clash was not far from a major battle that erupted in Helmand's Musa Qala district on Wednesday. Many "enemy fighters" and 16 police were killed, the coalition said in a statement Friday.

The Musa Qala battle was one of several major clashes in Afghanistan over the past few days that have left around 200 Taliban dead in some of the heaviest fighting in the country since the Taliban regime was toppled in late 2001.

Almost 25 troops, police and civilians have also been killed, including a Canadian who became the country's first woman to be killed in battle since World War II.

The bloodiest battle in the past week has been in the Shajwani area of Kandahar province, where the Taliban movement was formed in the early 1990s and took up arms to successfully control most of Afghanistan by 1996.

Around 130 Taliban were killed and 21 Taliban captured in Shajwani, among them a man who may be the Taliban commander Dadullah, officials said.

Afghan forces said Friday the man was a "very important Taliban" commander, but were yet to formally identify him.

Reports said he was being detained by international troops, thousands of whom are deployed in Afghanistan to help in the hunt for diehard remnants of the Taliban regime.

The Taliban denied that Dadullah had been captured. He is alive and healthy, Taliban spokesperson Mohammad Hanif said. AFP

Columbus bones buried in Seville, Spaniards say

MADRID, SPAIN—SPANISH researchers said they have resolved a century-old mystery surrounding Christopher Columbus's burial place, which both Spain and the Dominican Republic claim as its rightful resting place. Their verdict: Spain's got it right (mostly).

A forensic team led by Spanish geneticist Jose Antonio Lorente has analyzed DNA from bone fragments that Spain says are from the explorer—and are buried in a cathedral in Seville—with DNA from remains that are known to be from Columbus' brother Diego, who is also buried in the southern Spanish city.

"There is absolute matching between the mitochondrial DNA we have studied from Columbus' brother and Christopher Columbus," said Marcial Castro, a Seville-area historian and high school teacher who is the mastermind behind the project, which began in 2002. Mitochondria are cell components rich in DNA.

Castro and his research colleagues have been trying in vain for years to convince the Dominican Republic to open up its ornate lighthouse monument in the capital Santo Domingo that it says holds the remains of the explorer.

The goal of opening the lighthouse tomb was to compare those remains to the ones from Diego in Seville and determine which country had buried the man who arrived in the New World in 1492, landing at the island of Hispaniola, which today comprises the Dominican Republic and Haiti. AP

Sunday SPORTS

Lito Teddy S. Melendres

Bulls gun for quarters seat

Clash with Tigers; Purefoods closes out elims vs Sta. Lucia

THE COCA-COLA TIGERS coach, Binky Favis, knows how a losing streak can take the fire out of a well-prepared team.

"The players have been down," he said. "I've seen a lot of miseries like this before. Every time you're on a losing streak, every time you lose again, you get deeper in. It's only natural that way to get frustrated."

Part of that frustration might have been eased a bit after a five-game slide was stopped by a 99-98 victory over Sunday's Giesbos on Wednesday, which sent the Tigers' first win in the second round of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup's classification phase.

And the Tigers need to get focused again over quick action they clash with streaking Red Bull today at the Philsports Arena in Pasig, where Coke's chances of gaining outright quarterfinal entry could be determined.

Game time is 4:30 p.m. with the Bulls aiming to win for the fifth straight time and put a lock on a quarterfinal berth.

To say that Red Bull is in prime shape is an understatement. After losing four games in a row and dropping as deep to the standings, the Bulls have won their last five outings by an average of 14.4 points, with four of those games won by 11 points or more.

From potential outright semifinalists, the Tigers are now fighting to make the quarterfinals commercially and a win today would give them at least a tie for the third slot.

The Tigers have the assured top but shedding Talk 'N' Text Phone Pals as their last classification round loss on Friday.

Coke opened up first, rebounding in the four assignments to set the pace. But things have not gone this way for Tigers wanted starting the second phase of this round as they slumped to to a losing streak that is one of the longest this year.

The Purefoods Chunkee Giants have also been trying to keep their brass after losing Eugene Tejada in a season-ending jury.

"We have so much emotional baggage but somehow we pulled through. I have to hand it to the players," said coach Ryan Gregorio, after the Giants edged Talk 'N' Text, 72-69, last Wednesday.

Already assured of a semifinal seat with fellow pacesetter Jun Magsaysay, the Giants will secure their elimination round campaign versus Sta. Lucia in the 6:30 p.m. curtain.

The Realtors escaped with a 91-89 decision over the Phone Pals after Cris Ingles fouled a chest jumper at the buzzer last Friday and will be playing for nothing more than that winning feeling which they hope to take into the wild card phase.

Antonio M. Payo

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RUSH Fitness Water is for national badminton champions, Kenneth and Kennie Asuncion on their days off the court. They know they still need to be fit as they go about their everyday chores and activities.

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WORLD CHESS

50th year for RP in Olympiad

THE PHILIPPINES RESUMES ITS QUEST FOR HONORS IN THE 37th Chess Olympiad starting today up to June 4 in the sprawling industrial city of Turin, Italy.

Thirteen players, led by the country's top bet, Mark Bernie, will represent the RP delegation in its 50th year of participation in the Olympiad.

The Olympiad is perhaps the most prestigious chess event because every chessplayer dreams of playing in one for a chance to face the world's best players over the board or pose with them for posterity.

Will an RP member somehow emerge surprising in sizzling, or shoot for the moon?

It would be worthwhile to remember how the Philippines celebrated its first Olympiad nine 50 years ago in Moscow with a victory by topping Group C ahead of strongest chessplaying countries.

The Philippines achieved that performance without a substitute, prompting many federations to stand up and take notice.

"They never dreamed this would happen. They didn't know us, but we were holding our own over the board," said Florencio Campomanes, the second board, captain and reporter rolled into one.

Campomanes attended his first World Chess Federation (Fide) Congress in Moscow, starting a steady climb that made him president and now honorary chair.

The star of the team, which was also made up of the late national master Glicerio Badillo at first board, and stalwart master Carlos Bonaire as third, was 19-year-old national junior champion Rodolfo Dan Cardona, who mastered board four.

Cardona, playing in a total of 12 games, scored 10 points to earn the Philippines' first Olympiad medal a silver behind Russia, grandmaster David Bronstein, who led then world champion Mikhail Botvinnik to a match in 1951.

The late Badillo and Bernie were clearly players, but teamed up with Cardona's overpowering style and Campomanes' experience in luring strong players.

Turn to page A11, col. 1

Painters claim twice-to-beat edge

JOE DEVANCE of Toyota tries to put up a shot against Rolly Williams of Magnolia. The Sports outscored the Spinners, 89-81.

GAME TUESDAY (Ninoy Aquino Center)
7 p.m.—Magnolia vs San Miguel
9 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text

By Jaymiko W. Pago

VETERANS MARVIN ORTIGUERRA AND JOJO Lastimoso finally came through in the clutch to lead Pasay City Mutya to a 73-69 victory over Silay, while Bacolod City and Escalante survived to force a decisive game three in the PBL Unity Cup.

Ortiguerra, last conference's Most Valuable Player, paced the Mutya Painters' balanced offense with 15 points, while Ortiguerra stepped up in the second half by drilling in eight of his 12 points at the Ultimate Sports Center in Dasmariñas.

Coach Leo Austria felt relieved that the Painters, who occupied the fourth spot at 8-6, wrapped up the eliminations round with a victory.

"There was complacency among the players," said Austria. "They think we're a strong team. But I reminded them that we can't become a strong team if we do not perform. Hard work, that's what was missing in our four losses."

Asiaone Shine only needs to score one quarterfinal triumph over Magnolia, which settled for fifth place with a 6-6 card, to advance to the semifinal round.

Third-seeded Granny Goose, which claimed the other twice-to-beat incentive, will face Universe Cruiser in the other quarterfinal pairing.

The Pointmasters settled for sixth place at 6-6 after beating to the Mountain Jewels, 93-84, in the first game.

League leaders Toyota Otis and Montalvo already claimed outright semifinal seats, but the Jewels still came out firing behind Alex Compton to improve their record to 13-4.

"We need that win going into the semis," said Jewels coach Nel Hurtado.

Converting from long range, the Painters dropped in 18-3 burst to erase a 50-43 deficit and take a 94-89 lead late in the third period.

Tanghay Ortiguerra and Jenjee Lastimoso knocked down key triples in the decisive run that pushed the Painters on top for good.

The advantage kept growing with Exotic, who also all of his nine points in the second half, and Jenjee Cabuto teaming up really in the final quarter for a 68-58 lead.

Magnolia's Rowland Santos made it a one-point game, 68-67, after scoring seven of the Spinners' next eight points heading into the final 1:30.

Ortiguerra and Tanghay soon defused the Spinners' charge with back-to-back three-pointers to open the game in the long for the Painters, 74-70, with only 1:03 seconds left.

The scores

First Game

MUTYA PASAY (84) — Compton 16, Rosa 16, Ortiguerra 14, Rodriguez 13, Vergara 8, Jumilla 6, Augusto 2, Dela Cruz 2, Ramos 4, Ramirez 0, Williamson 0, Fajardo 0, Evangelista 0

SILAY CITY (69) — Lastimoso 15, Ilano 9, Aurea 10, Reyes 9, Cruz 7, Sagandoi 9, Jumilan 8, Tenorio 4, Cuadrejos, Vicente 4, Amores 4, Cano 7, Manchester 2

Quarters: 30-30, 51-50, 73-62, 84-69

Second Game

ASIA ONE SHINE (94) — Stephen 23, Ortiguerra 22, Reyes 21, Cabato 10, Cortes 8, Evans 6, Bustamante 5, Na-Aloan 5, Hernandez 0, Apacible 0

MAGNOLIA (84) — Santos 28, Williams 15, Montes 8, Ocampo 8, Abercrombie 8, Chan 4, Ilo 3, Mendoza 2, Ong 2, Bonifacio 0, Jones 0, Yeo 0

Quarters: 30-23, 50-42, 66-61, 94-84

Spring Oil backs NBC Selection to Taiwan meet

SPRING COOKING OIL IS BACKING THE participation of the NBC North Selection in the Hua Lien Prefecture Basketball Championship on May 25-28 in Taiwan.

"I believe we have a good chance in the coming international event. Our board has formed the strongest team possible from winning north division players," said NBC president and Spring Cooking Oil general manager Emmanuel "Tao" Pulilla.

The North Selection will be composed of Barobar/Barbosa Center's Alapusan Mendoza, Harold Sta. Cruz, Jayson Corvera and Kenneth Cayabyab, Bulong Tagaytay's Nilo Marquez, Spring Cooking Oil-Bacolod's Mac Reyes and Bodet Manuel, Laguna Sta. Rosa's Ed Domingo and Pangasinan's Bernie Mesias.

Geremy Gerald Robinson will join the team to be coached by Batchoy Barbosa's Lawrence Chongson, Batangas's Elbet Garcia and Laguna Sta. Rosa's Vic Sandino.

NBC secretary general and team manager Patricio Millo heads the delegation, which flies to Taiwan on May 23.

The first foreign trip of NBC is also backed by Barobar/Barbosa Center, Philippine Airlines, Pangasinan's Amateur Basketball Association, MBC DXP and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino, Lagunas Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Sta. Rosa Mayor Joey Kimbing.

Ozamiz fashions come-from-behind win vs Tagaytay

TAGAYTAY CITY—DEFENDING CHAMpion Ozamiz came from behind to nip Tagaytay, 95-91, for its second straight road victory in the 2006 Governor Brandy-MBC national basketball championship as the International Convention Center here.

Mathin Ibarra produced another stirring all-around performance of 24 points, nine rebounds, two blocks and one assist to power Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Dynamic Cotta cagers to their seventh win in eight games. Tagaytay dropped to 5-3.

Ozamiz was trailing the Tagaytay squad of NBC executive vice president and Mayor Bambol Tolentino, 77-68, with 9:30 remaining when it mounted a rally to tie the score at 86.

NBC Gaviota completed a three-point play to give the lead back to Tagaytay with 43 seconds left, 91-88. But Billy Bantil's three-pointer, followed by Wilfred Sampilo's basket-powered tie for the tying as Tagaytay failed to score in the crucial plays in the contest supported by Hotsauce, Dalpitic Lines, Nature's Spring, Regent Foods, Spring Cooking Oil, Vanlly Lighting, Molten and Prime Channel.

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Archery head coach cleared by NAAP panel

VETERAN ARCHERY HEAD COACH ENRIC Masukang has been cleared of various charges, ranging from sexual harassment to name-calling, cheating, favoritism and bias in selecting members of the national team by a three-man archery association (NAAP) investigating panel.

The panel composed of chair Dr. Ofi Kanagan, Magdalena Dhanapangat-Councilor Benjamin Tolentino and Celso Ramirezmanas Alejandro Marquez dismissed by a majority decision the complaints filed by athletes against Masukang, a two-time Olympian veteran, in its report submitted April 22, 2009.

Masukang contested with all observations, findings, conclusions and recommendations of Barcelona, but added some other comments.

While he agreed with Barcelona on several aspects of the case, including clearing Masukang from sexual harassment charges, Dr. Natapat said he was hesitant to relieve the coach of any blame on some of the other complaints against him.

"I would not go as far as to 'exonerate' Coach Masukang but only to state that there is insufficient incontrovertible proof of wrongdoing," Dr. Natapat said.

Barcelona took to task allegations of sexual harassment, which he said was a non-issue. "Such matter is actually never an issue as some complainants, Ms. Pepita (ex-Mentor, herself) has never mentioned it in her complaint to the NAAP association [On Lennon 06 E. Executive] dated Sept. 12, 2008, nor in her resignation letter. No other complaint of this nature was brought by her to NAAP's attention," he explained.

He added that was also not an issue in the case of Olympians Jeanette Papasmo, who had an affidavit denying that she and Masukang have a relationship other than as coach-athlete.

Pacquiao upstages Larios

PACQUIAO: PR man

Draws big cheer for backing Clippers

BOXING PACQUIAO IS NOT ONLY A world-class boxer, but also a world champion public relations man, too.

This he proved without a doubt yesterday.

Upon entering the Rosemont Hotel for his usual meeting with the press together with Mexico's Oscar Larios, Pacquiao's opening salvo was "Go Clippers," which drew a big cheer from the press people, most of whom came from the Los Angeles area, home of both the Clippers and the Lakers.

What broke the house down was when the Filipino added as he turns "even a hot and a fistful of dollars" for the Clippers' 114-106 win over the Phoenix Suns the night before the presscon.

On Nov. 15, 2008, when he went up the ring at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, for his fight against Mexico Antonio Barrera, he was wearing the jersey of the San Antonio Spurs that sent the troublesome Mexican-armed drummer by Pacman.

Pacquiao went on to TKO the Mexican Barrera in the 11th round.

Barman refused to predict if he would knock out Larios when they clash at the Mexico Coliseum on July 2. Billed as "Manos a Manos," the fight will be televised live on pay-per-view in the United States.

Meanwhile, Larios was not upset his 40-plus opponent got all the attention during the press conference.

"After the fight, I know the attention will be mine," said Larios.

Larios said he will remain calm until July as "no matter what will allow me to resist the 'power' that is Pacquiao."

Mexican manager Rafael Mendoza said Larios likes hard-to-hit opponents like Mendoza, where he will train for two more weeks before flying to Tokyo where he wants to acclimatize for the months in Manila.

Thai reinforcement powers Lady Stags

By Mari Anthony Reyes

THAI REINFORCEMENT MOULIE Jahrmet imposed her superiority as San Sebastian College dethroned University of the East, 21-13, 20-19, 21-15, last night to convey one of the semifinal berths in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The 5-foot-10 Jahrmet, one of the Thais tapped to spice up the tournament, led the offensive for the Lady Stags, finishing 25 kills out of her 39 spoons.

She bettered in with ten second to 6-2 and completed the cure for the double-round semifinals.

De La Salle, Adamson and Far Eastern University are also made it to the next round.

TRIBUTE TO WARRIORS: Members of the Cignal Hotels team display the awards ceremonies of the Shakey's Pocket Pinoy 2009 PVL Invitational Conference after they were awarded the champion's trophy. From left are Tandaya Sandiganbayan manager Larry Lizaso (extreme left), Tandaya VP for marketing Andrew Co (extreme right) and Air21 president Brett Lim (second from left). Behind Lim is Cignal coach Roger Gorayeb while the team's coach Tim Sto. Tomas is at the Tandaya's magic dragon that is near the exit side of the event.

The Sunbolt Kid reprises history

THE BOOK CHOOSES A SPORT FOR THE money, the ink for hobby.

Then print is poor, the pale glance is rich.

In his first cycling marathon in 1966—the Sibbal "PAO Rizal" El Pengasinan—Sonny Alcantara finished 106th in a field of 470.

Not bad.

You were just 20. The country's top guns were in pro fast.

Never mind that the prize money was a mere pittance.

You were single, just three years into your sport, so you shrugged it off.

A little in the last freshened.

It wasn't for long where you hit the jackpot.

The cyclocross all-rolling, at least 40-the-count way, are considered by many as the toughest. To them, chasing college degrees is like chasing the wind. As always, poverty has been the call-pay.

The son of a farmer from Brgy. Inayawan, Urdaneta, Pangasinan, Alcantara wouldn't make it to the top of the chain that affects mostly Pangasinenses after high school.

It is a humble affiliation to those born in it. Pangasinan being the cradle of the cycling marathon since the late Leonardo Leonardo of Binalonan, Pangasinan, founded the 1963 Manila-Baguio race, the forerunner of the fabled Tour of Luzon.

With the legendary Jesus A. Garcia Jr., as his idol, Sunbolt Kid Alcantara, the fourth in a brood of five produced by the union of Dominga and Eleuterio, would eventually herself from the mortal 1994 debut to a shining fourth in the 1998 Marlboro Tour won by Warren Davadilla.

In that farewell gig of the Marlboro Tour, Alcantara mentally pinned pedal pioneers with the best from Brunei, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and even Mainland China.

He finished fourth, yes, but to many, an honor was born to the throne seats occupied by 19 Pangasinenses that included, among others, Gabot, Silver Jesse (a pioneer), De Guzman, Bernardo, Villanueva, Bellido, Dacanay, Dela Cruz and the Reyes, Bruno (R.I.P.), Caliga, Quirino and, yes, the pride of Mangaldan, Meng Jess Garcia.

Remembers would soon win the one-day Manila-Baguio event put up by Smart in 2000 and the Tour de Caballocoan road race put up by the JCI in 2002.

And now this: A victory only two days ago in the Subyak Pinoy, coming 28 years after his DQ win in Singapore put up by then Pangasinan Governor Oscar Orbos.

In retrospect, Alcantara regretted his decision to stay in the Pinoy Tour when Garcia also prevailed in their 1977 lakeshore without a single sang-froid.

The first to record that was Leonardo Bayadog of Lingayen, Pangasinan, in the 1960 Tour of Luzon.

Essentially, Alcantara won it the easy way: placing second, third and several spots in the Tour before three stages.

The third stage saw him grab the overall lead. The fourth saw him unleash a massive attack, effectively this leadership en route to a no-look back-injury victory.

In the third, Alcantara finished solo second to the strength-surging, 1994-era Baguio climb just 45 seconds behind veteran Wendelin Rodriguez.

But more importantly, Alcantara, 5-foot-6, dislodged first-stage winner Arturo Ghosn, building home lastly to the top, from the top.

The next day, Alcantara, chopsticking eight reps, finally was crowned a top rank-a-strung. He left to the fourth stage cycling in tequila City.

With said stage only 50 kilometers, Alcantara, pacing the field, pumped it on "beyond" word when he saw Indonesia and Ghosn, both positioned at the back of the lead pack, asking for water.

"I saw them raise their water cannons, which means they needed a drink," Alcantara said in Filipino. "Since I was one for them there and confident I was out of their sight, I instantly asked for water."

He hasn't proving to be true, the Asian Invitational pace he said Ariel Quintal had of seemingly stained made them finish the 110.4-km race some 6 seeming minutes ahead of Indonesia and Ghosn.

Alcantara allowed Quintal to pocket his second stage victory, cementing himself with a 9th place finish.

His generosity rewarded him with a solid 7:08 fabulous margin over Feliciano and 7:29 over Ghosn with Adapa left in the 8-day Tour.

Alcantara and Quintal, however, needing 3 into a routine to what could have been a tragedy in Malaysia, almost it down the next day in the first to Garcia—allowing Feliciano to close in at 6:07—the Sunbolt skipper would proceed to push away the threats in the 56th year of the Tour with plenty to spare.

Remember, Jesus the same year that Modesto Bravo of Sual, Pangasinan, won the Tour in 1976, simply made to his many feats the last three days from Lucena to win the Tanduay-backed event, making him richer by more than a hundred thousand bucks.

Rather?

Not really.

His prize is pressure if stopped against what our other athletes earn. For example, our 39th ABC title is an average of nearly P150,000 a tournament.

Next month (June 16), Alcantara will probably spend more than half of his winnings when he marries Michelle, the sister of cycling's foremost speedster Enrique Dominguez of San Carlos City (Pangasinan).

After that, it's back to the barracks for Alcantara, a Navy private since 2001.

It takes to summon, unlike the rest of the year.

If winning the Tour was a jackpot to Alcantara, no argument there.

What times, the point is. He counter-is-please.

Comment to mvp@philstar.net

Ateneo golfers get back at La Salle

ATENEO SCORED HEAVILY IN TEAM and individual championships in the 4-day event.

Ateneo also topped the championship division six-and-3 event, and Clare Co (130), on the way to netting a 38-5-27-3 victory that restored a lost. All three servers sponsored by FILIPE and Smart Communications of star Manila against other last year's victory by La Salle.

The new format put more weight in the top three division schools had a 6-3, 5-1 point system against the 4-5-1-5-1-5 of the lower five.

The tourney which had ASIA CIRCUIT case Online, Consolidated Industries/Carlos Bank, Directories Philippines Corporation, ICSP Philippines, Inc., Filipisk Resources, Inc., Nature Petroleum Corporation and Manila, was participated in by 200 players from both sides. Int'l Company student's Club Cup for a fourth consecutive year.

Anthony Fernando added to the Ateneo contention when he ruled the championship class with a 2-under par gross of 70 at the North course, edging La Salle's Hansen Ito by one and runner-up Lorenz Tanzalao and Jess Hechanova by two.

Alcantara leads Head Penn tennis cast

MANILA TOP JUNIOR FRANCIS CASEY Alcantara leads more than 400 players vying action in the final leg of the 2009 Head Penn Tennis Tour which kicks off today at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Alcantara, ranked No. 1 in the Asian Tennis Federation 14-under division, is seeded sixth in the 16-under class behind Eddie Oliveros II, Andrea Tee Ho, Ralph Kevin Sarte, Russel Arvilla Jr. and Ellaine Santos.

Oliveros, Tee Ho, Sarte and Arvilla are all members of the national junior team while Santos City-based Santos was the 18-under and 16-under titlist two days ago in Baguio City.

"I'll do my best. It will be tough playing against the best 16-under players in the country," said Alcantara.

In the girls' division, Dumaguete City's Mary Soler is eyeing her eighth title in the event organized by Dynamic Sports Corporation. Her contender the 8-footer of UEAC and Peter rockets Sofia were in Davao, General Santos, Dumaguete, Cebu, Cebu and Baguio.

Lee rules 1st MercedesTrophy tourney

BUSINESSMAN FRANKLIN LEE LIU-SO survived the wind-swept Middleton course to win the Class A division championship of the Mercedes Trophy Philippines 2009, held at the posh Alta Heim Golf Club in Calatagan, Laguna recently.

In a tiny three-stroke to the runners, the seven-handicapper Lee edged with 2 net score par 72 for an impressive 36 points under the traditional system in the initial staging of the tournament organized by GMD Motors Inc. and co-sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways and Smart Infinity.

Lee will head the three-man MP Team in the Mercedes Trophy Regional Asian Final set in December 4 Australia this August. "The very happy with this win and looking forward to my trip to Australia," he said.

Joining him in the squad are Maciel Gray, president Emmanuel To and Sandra Ortiz, president Bobbie Simbla, who topped their respective divisions.

To won the Class B crown pulling away after shooting a day best 46 points while Simbla captured the Class C laurels with the 38 in the event also sponsored by Armor Shirts, Lacoste, and Nic Home Village. Caseen, Shangri-La Victoria and Nomads.

Johnnie Walker and Summit were donors.

GMD Motors class Gregorio T. Yu and Lee, Jr. said Sandra have a fighting chance of bagging a win in the Regional Asian Final. "Keep home the trophy, gentlemen," he said during the awarding ceremony.

In the event that any of the champions is unable to join the Australian trip, the three division runners-up—Bobbie Sison (Class B), Daniel Sagayaga (Class C) and Antonio Chua (Class C)—will take their spot in the team.

Barrera defends crown

LOS ANGELES—Mexican veteran Marco Antonio Barrera will defend his World Boxing Council super featherweight crown here Saturday against American challenger Rocky Juarez.

"I know Rocky very well and I know he is a very good boxer, with a hard punch," Barrera told Fightnews.com. "Rocky it will be an interesting fight for the fans, with many toe-to-toe exchanges. And this is the best thing I do."

Barrera, 32, has spent more than half his life in the professional ranks, compiling a 62-4 record with 42 knockouts. His only losses over the past six years were to Juan Manuel Marquez and Erik Morales.

He held Fighters that he did not have a hard-to-face habit of opponent.

"I do not pick my opponents, my promoters do," he said. "But I like Rocky's style, he is a tough fighter."

It's the 22nd title fight for Barrera, his first title defense since beating seven-division 9,000 to-draw Erik Morales in a 12-round decision last September.

He was supposed to face Jesus Chavez but that was canceled. Barrera, however, also told Fightnews.com that he still went on with his usual preparations despite the change of opponent.

"Maybe nothing changed, because I never stopped my training," said the one-time Master Picquiniano. "We worked at 9,200 meters, we are level and we are to excel.

RICARDO Juarez (left) poses with Marco Antonio Barrera, at their weigh-in, Friday for their WBC super featherweight championship bout in Los Angeles. AP

Bautista fights in Marco undercard

BOY 'BOOM BOOM' BAUTISTA, THE EXPLOsive fighter from Bohol, sets action today against Olongapore Isidoro Bonilla in the undercard of the Mario Antiston-Rincon Rocky Juarez bout at the Staples Center said on Angeles, California.

The bout will be aired starting at 10 a.m. today simulcast over Solar Sports and MPS++.

If victorious, Bautista will fight in the undercard of Oscar De La Hoya's farewell fight against undefeated pound-for-pound No. 1 foster Floyd Mayweather in September.

In a press conference held the other day by Golden Boy Promotions and Wiz Boss for the Philippine press in Mimi's Restaurant, it was announced that the Golden Boy Promotions had given Bautista a $1,000 bonus, in addition to his $13,000 purse, owing to his performance at the press conference and pool titled rules.

The flamboyant Bautista showdown comes about just before the clash supporting four-fronting WBO super featherweight champ Jorge Barrios defending his title against Hungarian Jozsi Nagy.

Bautista (19-0, 14 KOs), the 19-year-old prodigy from Catarman, Bohol, will be defying his reputation against the 31-year-old Bonilla (22-7, 15 KOs) in a 10-round bout.

Nelson L. Jaguimlay

Prison sentence completes fall of showboat 'Prince'

HAMED AP

Barbaro leaves home ready for Preakness

KENTUCKY winner Barbaro is unloaded in preparation for the Preakness Stakes. AP

HUNTHAL Hingis of Switzerland poises the ball to Flavia Pennetta. AP

Hingis sets semis date vs Williams

Splendido Golf slated May 27

CHAMP OF CHAMPS

WORLD CUP
England striker Owen calm—and a touch arrogant

VEGAS 9-BALL

'Bata' settles for third

EFREN "BATA" REYES OF THE Philippines lost to German ace Ralf Souquet, 7-6, in their semifinals match in the latter's bracket in Ronde #1&#2 in the 64-man, $150,000 2005 Empire Poolroom 9-Ball Championship at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 32-year-old Reyes also lost to Souquet, 11-9, in the fifth round and got a second shot at the Germ after trouncing fellow Filipino cue "Amazing" Dennis, 11-5, and American Charlie Williams, 11-4.

Third place was worth $5,000 (around P277,000) for Reyes, whose benchmate includes billiards powerhouse Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Ronnie Alcano.

Souquet, on the other hand, won $10,000 (around P554,000) for his efforts.

He, however, yielded to Australian "The Scorpion" Archie last year's second player, in the eighth, 11-9.

Other Filipinos who campaigned in the tough event were Rodolfo "Boy Jamasa" Luat, Ramon Sandoval Dante "Scorpio" Orcollo.

In the distaff side, Jasmin Ouschan edged Helena Thornfeldt, 7-6, to salvage a Globe showdown with undefeated Allison Fisher. The champion-to-be won $25,000 on it. Marlen Bernardino contributor

EFREN "Bata" Reyes' class bore $5,000.

Gallego joins Asian 9-Ball Bangkok leg

VETERAN INTERNATIONALIST NIKKI GALLEGO will join forces with fellow "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and "Silvershoes" Johnson Mariano in the Bangkok leg of the 2006 Asian Billiard Federation 9-Ball Tour slated June 2-4.

Gallego, winner of two big events in Japan recently topped the qualifying tournament conducted by Henri Sports to earn the slot originally allotted for Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan.

Pagulayan, the 2004 World Pool champion, bagged all loots the Bangkok meet due to prior commitments.

In the elimination held at the Bowling Inn along Taft Avenue, Gallego beat Pacific Overseas, 13-7, to clinch the berth. Among the other noted local cue artists who took part in the event were Warren Alcano, Joe Yeo Cordova, Antonio Gabica, Mervin Agullana, Roberto Gomez and Jeffrey de Luna.

Other cue stars like Gandy Mile and Jessie Orcollo did not take part as they are currently campaigning in the United States.

"Ronald Gallego is a total campaigner. Together with Efren, Django and Mariano, our chances in the Bangkok stop of the Asian 9-Ball Tour will be boosted," said Atoner "Butch" Reyes, Asia/Oceania chief patron and president of Hyatt Sports.

Reyes won the crown Ilo Ilo/Iloilo City leg on 11 Cowin-run Chinese Lu Ho Hsiao thrilled.

SPORTSWATCH

All set for Palaui aquathlon

THE PALAUI ISLAND AQUATHLON CHALLENGE 2005 gangplow May 21. The race is the second leg of the Ogoob aquathlon Series 2005 series sponsored by the local government of Aparri. Interested participants may log on to www.Lara.com.ph or call Mayor Tommy Rodriguez and the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (Cezo) Secretary Jose Maria Perez, Pre-mobile: 0920-9320502, 0915-4330644 or 0917-5950502.

PCSO beach volleyball on

THE PCSO OPEN BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT BEACH Volleyball Challenge cup of Iloilo with 21 teams from eight cities is competing at the Carlos Locsin Center court in Jaro, Iloilo City. Leading the elimination round are the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office and the Iloilo City Police Office. Pool A leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool B leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool C leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool D leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool E leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool F leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool G leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office. Pool H leaders are the Iloilo City Police Office and the Iloilo City Government Youth Development Office.

Youth program a hit

SOME 24 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS [illegible] youth bathing in this year's Summer Youth Development Program of the Office of the Mayor of Cavite City, starts tomorrow, May 31. The annual event is the SYDP's support for the education and youth development program of the government. Active participants from various [illegible]

SJC hosts 2 derbies

THE KING BOTHE COOKING PRECISION [illegible] tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum in the last week of May. The Founders Cup 6-a-side derby gets off the ground tomorrow with a guaranteed prize of P100,000 and will be off P15,000. Deadline for the [illegible] of entries is today. A team 9-a-side derby will be held on Wednesday. Entry fee is P5,000. For more information [illegible] 725-3645, 725-34-65 local 109 [illegible]

Southerners complete 15-km marathon swim

GLAD, SAMARIANS — SWIMMERS FROM THE provinces and South Cotabato have crossed the Tomongtong Bay during a marathon swimming competition on Thursday, to test their endurance. The Datlangpas Tomongtong Marathon Swimming Series (DATOMASWIMSERIES), making it the fourth time to cross the 15-kilometer stretch that includes the Tawas Point in Barangay Dumangas in Matina town. Only three out of the 20 participating teams completed the 15-kilometer across the bay, which started from Dango Beach here. The event, which started at 7 a.m. was witnessed by thousands of people and was considered a historic event by residents. No one had previously tried to cross the bay by swimming only. But three members of Matina town came to record by clocking four hours, seven minutes and 12 seconds while the Matina swimming team came in third, registering 4:07:26 in the [illegible]. Jessie Z. Zoom, PDI/Mindanao Bureau

Sunday SPORTS

NBA PLAYOFFS

It's down to a Game 7

MANU Ginobili of the San Antonio Spurns maneuvers his ow to break away against Ashton Griffin and Keith VanHorn (right) of the Dallas Mavericks. —AP

Spurs take series back home as Ginobili, Duncan shine

DALLAS, TEXAS—Manu Ginobili scored 30 points and Tim Duncan had a big second half to lead San Antonio to a 91-86 win over Dallas on Friday in game six of their NBA quarterfinal series.

FINLEY: Thumbs down to Dallas' defense

The Mavericks nearly entered late as Tony's quickness and outside shooting have given the Spurs fits throughout the series.

He is averaging 27.5 points and sealed a victory for his side with a rainbow jumper over Duncan in the final minutes.

In Tony's absence, the Mavericks started Jerry Stackhouse alongside Devin Harris in the backcourt, and the duo struggled, shooting a combined seven-of-24 from the field and committing seven turnovers.

Ginobili scored 17 of his points in the first half, keeping the Spurs close as the Mavericks opened a 47-41 lead.

The game was tied at 67-67 after three quarters and Ginobili scored eight of 10 to play to the hosts to give San Antonio its biggest lead, 78-73.

Seeing to match the conference finals for just the second time since 1988, the fourth-seeded Mavericks tied the game at 82-82 when Harris split a pair of free throws with 2:50 remaining.

A layup by Stackhouse, Dallas' fastest 3-Point-pointer on four minutes's new possession and after a timeout by Harris, Duncan scored to the line to make it 87-84 with 1:40 to go.

"It is a strange situation for me," Finley said. "We made big shots down the stretch and were able to win. Hopefully we have to stay strong."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points for Dallas, including a reverse lung with 17 seconds left to make it 87-86.

Ginobili made two free throws and Finley thwarted Jerry Stackhouse's drive to the basket as he had from the corner on a 3-point attempt.

Finney's Tony Parker capped the scoring with a pair of free throws. AFP

Brash Wallace proves his point, keeps Pistons alive

DESPITE being linked with a trade involving Rasheed Wallace in the recent season, Rasheed Wallace is confident his productive season will hold true.

NEW YORK—RASHEED WALLACE scored 24 points and the Detroit Pistons got three key offensive rebounds in the dying seconds to edge the Cleveland Cavaliers, 94-92, in Wednesday Basketball Association play Friday in Cleveland.

Richard Hamilton added 17 points for the Pistons, who forced a seventh and deciding game Sunday at stadium Fills.

The winners of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal will play the Miami Heat for a berth in the NBA finals.

The two-time defending Eastern Conference champions recorded three offensive rebounds in the final minute after three misses and a key lead shot by Chauncey Billups to finally put away the stubborn Cavaliers and deny them the series spot.

"We know we had to come to play today. We knew they were going to fight us [sic]. We had to come out and match their energy," Wallace told reporters.

"They threw us their straight punch, the only way we could get to go this way and [sic] we couldn't make it that straight and go at them."

Wallace had double-problem's series victory after the Game Three loss and says he is still confident the Pistons will prevail over the series is headed back to Detroit.

"We're going to go out there (Sunday) and play our basketball. It's going to be business as the Pistons," Wallace added.

The win for Detroit will now set-stand until the final buzzer, as LeBron James went to the free throw line with 1.4 seconds left, trailing his first shot and deliberately missing the second.

The rebound by another shot was nearly tipped into the basket but hit the rim and moved, ending the game.

Coming back from the brink of elimination is nothing new for the Pistons.

Last year the Pistons trailed 3-2 in the conference finals before rallying to beat Miami in seven games. In 2004, they won Game Six in New Jersey and then won Game Seven at home in final series.

In 2003, Detroit won Game Six at Orlando in coming and then ended the Magic's season in the same finals at home.

"We've created doom going home," Detroit coach Flip Saunders told reporters.

"We had guys that made plays. We were able to come up with a big win. There's a lot of people who thought we were dead, so we'll go home breathing."

Billups and Rasheed Pistons both scored 20 points by the Pistons, while Ben Wallace had 13 rebounds and four points.

James led 32 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were cheered on by a packed crowd.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 15 points and six rebounds for Cleveland.

Cleveland coach Mike Brown felt his club was still alive, despite missing a chance to swap the series.

"The effort was there, but we can play harder and we can definitely play better," Brown said. "You have to give the Pistons credit. There's a fine line between winning and losing a basketball game." Reuters

IMAX: marvelous, miraculous

By Paul Dizon
Contributor

IN A CASE OF NEAR-PERFECT timing, members of the press were transported to Mt. Everest a mere 39 hours before us-adventurous Low Ovation became the first Filipino to reach the treacherous mountain's summit. No, those writers weren't actually on Everest, but it was as though they were, thanks to the miraculous movie marvel that is IMAX.

Rising majestically like a mountain in a field of hills, the Sea Shipyard Coca Cola IMAX Theater is in the sprawling new SM Mall of Asia complex. With a screen eight stories high, matchingly crisp digital sound, and scoop but comfy stadium seating, the IMAX theater is a larger-than-life, state-made wonder—the most exciting evolution in the movie-going experience to hit the country in decades.

Extra power lugs

Screened at the theater were 3D trailers for three upcoming IMAX films—"Ultra Back to the Centerstage," "Happy Feet" and "Ant Bully"—which inspired the use of spiffy polarized glasses. IMAX 3D is so sharp and the colors so startlingly vivid, they make recent 3D flicks like "Spy Kids 3D" and "The Adventures of Shark Boy & Lava Girl" look drab. By comparison, the cute baby penguin at the center of the "Happy Feet" trailer looked like he could dance right out of the screen and into every viewer's lap. Each cranks of his feathery body was visceral, the spectacle spectacular. It's no fluke not to get the creeps.

After the trailers, the short documentary "NASCAR 3D: The IMAX Experience" came on. Narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, the 40-minute film is a celebration of the most famous annual event for car racers. Appropriately, the IMAX theater roars and rattles like the interior of a new car (Thanks to 44 strategically-placed speakers), the audience felt like it was plunked right in the middle of a race course, with the roar of powerful engines driving it. And how effective was the 3D? In a shot where a race car is seen apart and one of its tires hurtles towards the camera, some folks in the audience actually ducked!

After "NASCAR 3D," it was time for the 45-minute "Everest," perhaps the most awe-inspiring, breathtaking documentary ever filmed. It followed a brave team in its attempt to scale the world's tallest mountain in May 1996, and showed how the deadliest storm in Everest's history engulfed the mountain, killing eight climbers and nearly halting filming on the IMAX project.

Still relevant

Though it was first released in IMAX theaters in 1998, "Everest" shows no sign of becoming dated, especially with the current Filipino fascination with the mountain. Superbly narrated by Liam Neeson, "Everest" is rousing, informative, even heart-stopping. Crystal-clear images captured by the IMAX cameras make the videos footage seen on local news shows look like home movies. With their snow-blinded images broadcast on TV screens, the riders don't even come close to capturing the grandeur and sustained beauty of the world's tallest mountain. Plus, the IMAX screen is so tall (22 meters), you actually have to move your eyes up and down to see the breathtaking images in their entirety.

But more than being a showcase of what the large-screen format is capable of, "Everest" is also an inspiring story about how to triumph sometimes works with tragedy. The film handles the deaths and disfigurements that resulted from the May 1996 event with tasteful aesthetic distance. "Everest" shows us that even when filmmakers have an all-seeing IMAX camera, sometimes the most human thing to do is turn the camera off or make it look elsewhere when death or misfortune is a few feet away.

For those who don't know why there's such a fuss over the Pinoys who successfully scaled Mt. Everest last week, the award-winning film should leave no doubt about what unrelenting, death-defying feat the climb is. And for those who aren't gifted with the legs and lungs to conquer the mountains, the "Everest" IMAX experience is the safest, most affordable way to scratch the peak and know what it's like to be on top of the world.

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GALLERIA

1 DA VINCI CODE • TKE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 OVER THE HEDGE
6 DA VINCI CODE
7 POSEIDON
8 DA VINCI CODE
9 DA VINCI CODE
10 SILENT HILL

ERMITA

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 POSEIDON
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 DA VINCI CODE
5 OVER THE HEDGE
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
7 SILENT HILL

METRO EAST

1 OVER THE HEDGE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 AQUAMARINE
6 DA VINCI CODE
7 DA VINCI CODE
8 POSEIDON

NOVALICHES

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 DA VINCI CODE
5 DA VINCI CODE
6 POSEIDON

CITISQUARE MALABON (MALABON) PIONEER (MANDALUYONG)

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 OVER THE HEDGE

STA. ROSA

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 POSEIDON

LIPA

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 SUBMERGED
4 POSEIDON
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

DASMARIÑAS

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 POSEIDON
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

ANGELES (MEGA MALL)

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 POSEIDON

IMUS

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 POSEIDON
6 OVER THE HEDGE

STARMILLS

1 OVER THE HEDGE
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 POSEIDON
4 DA VINCI CODE
5 DA VINCI CODE
6 DA VINCI CODE

BACOLOD

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 OVER THE HEDGE
5 POSEIDON
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

ILOILO

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 OVER THE HEDGE
5 POSEIDON
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

A2

FEEDBACK

Attention, DOLE

From Rhel Santiago (sigourel-3@yoodoo.com)
Sorsogon/GMA

I agree with Mister Tuazon's statement that, "Strong ties to do cover a child case," where in case children with dreams of show biz students are unemployment by directors, producers and even their own parents.

Surely this affects the child's psychology and how they treat themselves and others in the future. And to say, it is in the nature of Filipinos to brag about our children. This, surely is one them kids to join ally contests, for exposure and/or talent fee.

A child who is totally supposed to show his career do normal things like playing and interacting with normal children. The Department of Labor and Employment should be strict about granting permission for children to work.

Why Gerald?

From Billy Adra Panuelas (billy_world1@yahoo.com) Ext. San Antonio, Zambales

I think the judges should explain why Gerald Santos deserved to win the recently concluded "Pinoy Pop Superstar."

Singaling she sure can sing, at times it begins to [illegible] approaching to the level of what an Pinoy Inclusive Fame is competitive as you already know to sustain [illegible] young superstar quality of Arnels. No doubt, point judge Jessie Lasaten is correct when he said that Arnels [illegible] a part or lesser of Gerald Santos, which the manager on stage to [illegible] the manager should be [illegible] to improve on singing [illegible]

Hello, GMA

From Ismael Gonzales (ismaelgonz@yahoo.com) Singapore

Please send this feedback to GMA Management. Here in Singapore, a lot of Filipinos enjoy the Filipino Channel. We know that TFC is run by ABS-CBN, hence, we're limited to watching only their programs which, sad to say, are often boring.

Is GMA 7 not thinking of going global like ABS-CBN? I know it has a cable channel in the US, but would it be interested to go sell it in some parts of Asia or Middle East, where OFWs abound? Me, rules watching "Eat Bulaga!," "Sabel," "Bubble Gang" and other great GMA 7 shows.

Why not?

From Mell Israelo (melisrael-mail.com) 844 Orlando St. NE Walker Lagoon MC 28047

Why can't telecast "Dos Ju Vinci code" [illegible] protest against TV shows like "Pinoy Big Brother," "Eat Bulaga!" and show his classic shows?

MMFF '06 screenplay selections

By Nini Valera

NINETEEN SCREENPLAYS WERE SUBMITted to the Metro Manila Film Festival 2006 selection and screening committee. Five are from producer Lily Monteverde, who earlier threatened to boycott the film fest this year in protest of last year's winners.

From Monteverde's Regal Entertainment are "Shake, Rattle and Roll X," starring kompras de Leon, RJ Ferber, and Iza Calzado, directed by Mike Tuviera, Quark Henares and Ryan Cayabyab; "Mano Po 5: Gua Ai Di," with Dennis Trillo, Angel Locsin, Eric Fructuoso, and Christopher de Leon, directed by Joyce Bernal; "Otso Otso Cupcake," with Ruffa Mae Quinto, Ogie Alcasid, Allan K and Alfred Vargas, directed by Mark Meily.

Under MAQ Productions, Monteverde submitted "No Other Love," starring Eddie Garcia, Angelica Panganiban, Dolores Leone, Bruno Alonso Rios, and Gloria Romero, directed by Joel Lamangan; and "Tupper Hotel," with Mark Herras, Jennylyn Mercado, Jackie Rice, John Prats, and Bindy Cielo, directed by Quark Henares.

Judge Ryan for Star

From ABS-CBN's Star Cinema: "Basil, Kanalo, Kanalo," starring Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo, directed by Joey Reyes; "Hanggang Kailangan," with Marvin Agustin, Kristine Hermosa and Anne Curtis, directed by Jerry Sineneng and Quark Henares; and "Banging Bandilyo," with starring Vhong Navarro and Toni Gonzaga, directed by Joyce Bernal.

Octo Arts' International: "Hanggang Kahuhuan 3," with Vic Sotto and Kristine Hermosa, directed by Tony Reyes. From its satellite company Century Films: "Pinagsapat ng Diyos," with Rica Peralejo, Jennylyn Mercado, Shaleen Cuenca, and Dingdong Dantes, directed by Joey Reyes.

United Productions' "Young Stars," starring Marisol Jacinto, directed by Pablo Biglang-laway; and "Shadows," with Robin Padilla and Iza Calzado, directed by Rio Bautista.

Cesar Montano's GM Films' "Mga Batang Maynila," starring himself and with Jeanine Cruz. Director also directs.

Earth Moving Pictures' "Someone Who Cares," starring Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo, directed by Chessed Perez.

JBGH Productions' "Relasan," starring Hal Lanuza and Katherine Luna, directed by Mario O'Hara.

Virgin Pictures' "Short Time," starring Ruby Mae Quinto, Mawi Taylor, Sina Pendejo, and Marvin Agustin, directed by Joey Reyes.

Viva Films' "Talking Bacolod," starring Lito Lapid, Mark Lapid, Cindy Kurleto, and Hazel Ann Mendoza, directed by Tony Reyes.

Cinema Mo Plug Inc.: "Tabang Mo Pero-pasag," starring Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero, and Rosa Aman Rosa, directed by Jesse Tan.

Ideal Concept: "Super Ehkus," starring Ogie Alcasid or Michael V or Jimmy Gibbs, Iza Calzada, Luciana Villaroel and Grilli de Ilustre, directed by Ben Sinanan.

Final list

Mercy Nuqui, a member of the MMFF executive committee, said he/she has 10 films will be selected this year, as in the previous years. He said the final list may be announced by the end of the month.

This will give producers enough time to produce the selected entries. The festival is held during the yearend holidays.

The selection will be based solely on the screenplay. Last year, the MMFF conducted a second round of television based on the finished product.

According to Bonta Inocian Rios, seven others member of the executive committee (representing MowelFund, a festival beneficiary), all 10 entries will have simultaneous playdates. In the past few years, several films would open on Christmas Day and the others on New Year's Day.

Nuqui doesn't think having simultaneous opening days is profitable. "For big players like Star and Regal," he said, "the idea of showing their movies in only 40 theaters will not be appealing. They are used to exhibiting in at least 80 to 100 theaters."

Mia Farrow talks about her charmed, not ominous, life

LOS ANGELES—IT'S MISSING title here for Well Hello Llama and has Gamaron have gone with their Only Film there could. "Cooler."

Host gazzella Glamdaring style 'em the dyed on the way to the Philippines. "Cooler" seems another major shot on Friday, May 26. The film—about how a young Pil Ann's return to his native country for his father's funeral becomes a thrilling and compelling story of kidnap and an examination of identity and conscience—opens in LA and New York.

We've followed the journey of Geoff Bell Glass and his filmmate with "Cooler" since it was thrown in the LA Film Festival last year. We were fortunate to personally witness the class creative there because in March toward at the Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica early this year. They almost couldn't believe that a film they shot on such a small budget (they moved out their credit cards) for taken from to their magic, being handed a plaque by co-host then Willem Dafoe and Lili Taylor.

"Cooler," which has earned glowing reviews from the major papers in the US, will be shown at the Re Art (1127 E Santa Monica Blvd.) in West LA and at the Cinemas Village 123 East 12th Street) in New York. To be shown in Manila in August. "Cooler" also opens on June 16 in San Francisco and San Diego.

Geoff and Ian recently took part in Showbiz Communications' 22nd Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival panel discussion entitled "The State of Pinoy Film Independents: A Conversation with Filipino and Filipino-American Indie Filmmakers." They joined the following talents at the event. Jun Lana (Bahala Na) and director Dante Mendoza ("Kubrador"), Antonio Bellis (director, "Ang Pagbabalik ng Mahiwagang Diwata") and Ben Sabanan, director, "Ripto."

'Omen' remake

Actress Mia Farrow talked about her dark (and life (although she's also had her share of drama) in a screen press run in New York. Mia, who appears in the remake of the horror film "The Omen," was linked or invited to the following week-sonnet of our times: the late great Frank Sinatra, Sasha Pivovic (conductor, composer and pianist), Woody Allen (with whom she made several acclaimed films until their split, he married Soon-Yi, her adopted daughter with Andre).

After spotting Sag Jay, a contest in the show's host which she is known for since appearing in her landmark film, "Rosemary's Baby," Mia gamely answered all questions, referring to Woody simply as "my ex-husband" and added, in good-natured way, about the steamy diaries that revealed when she discovered Woody's affair with Soon-Yi.

Appearing with this daughter of actress Maureen O'Sullivan and director John Farrow (both deceased) in "The Omen," stared in her drama in the US such as 66, one Live Schreiber, John Tillotso and Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick, at the boy who originally hit by the way of you know who. The movie is directed by John Moore ("Behind Enemy Lines," "Flight of the Phoenix").

Please take us back to your glory

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew V. Arguelles

...more childhood.

I was born in Beverly Hills. I went to school there as my friends were the kids of movie stars. I went to school with Lucille Ball's kids and Gene Kelly's kids who were more famous than my parents. You just get used to the fact that some people had really famous parents. I don't know if this will happen, but the way Jamie used to go up and down Beverly Hills. As kids, we would just go from house to house. We'd go to Lucille Ball's house and knock on the door because that was right after Cheryl Crane, Lana Turner's daughter, had stabbed somebody. We thought it was expected of us (laughter). Even my dog was famous (laughter). It was so crazy. We just thought that was the way things were. The weird thing was, no one had my telephone number from immediate families. It wasn't like I went to my aunt's house after school, or my cousins came over for my birthday. No one ever mentioned my aunt, a cousin, an in-law, nothing. We just had people like agents and friends who are movie stars.

My mom said she could have bought half of Beverly Hills for like $15,000 in the 1940s. It was so cheap. When she came over in the 1930s from Ireland to LA, her first movie was called "Song of My Heart." It was one of the very first talkies. People were just beginning to come out to Beverly Hills.

You must take your mom with.

She was most interesting and gorgeous. I miss her a lot—don't get me started. She was a great mom.

You starred in "Rosemary's Baby," a film that helped define the horror genre, and now you are in a remake of "The Omen," which is another standout from that genre.

I was 21, when I was offered the part for "Rosemary's Baby" only because Anne Francis turned it down. I just happened to be around. The role gave me my career, something to do for decades and the opportunity to work with an amazing director John Cassavetes. I learned so much from everybody. It's been a long time so I have not seriously thought of the Omen.

Director John Moore came and asked me to do the film while I was in rehearsal for a play here in New York with Julie Kavner. As I recall, there was nothing wrong with the first one. John said no, he had ideas on how it could be brought up to date and that most people alive have never seen that movie. My next question was, why me? Because the great Billie Whitelaw was in the first one. When he said, who would have a name like that—she was too scary. This time around, he wants [the character] to be more subtle. He said, I want someone regular—Jane exact words—so he asked if I would do it. Since I was already working with Julie and I loved her, I wanted to work with Liev because he is one gentleman, he's considerate to be the new Lawrence Olivier. I also wanted to work with John [Moore] because I thought he has tremendous style as a director. And I thought, I get to be a villainess, which is my favorite role to ever play.

How do you, with your great experience, work with a kid like Seamus who is acting for the first time in a feature film?

We came over to Prague on the same plane. By the time we got there, we were friends. He's a really outgoing kid, very outspoken and a good kid, with good parents... loads of fun. He's affectionate. He didn't like school. He would say when they made him go off to school, the kid that ability to argue, John Moore would say, just share this class and he would argue and not think. He had those beautiful eyes and he could lure his them. Other than that, he's completely normal little boy. You always wonder about kids working, but I think he had a good time.

Your life, especially as known the history of Hollywood. You have known some great names.

Yes. (Legendary filmmaker) George Cukor (even) my godfather was George Cukor (the legendary director).

You were really lucky to have such a charmed life.

It was a extraordinary good fortune to be born to parents who inspired me so they did to escape being punished by police (or age since) despite a terrifying bout with it. I've developed back into my life, to be given wonderful actors and friends like the friends that I have. I mentioned my godfather because some of you here are old enough to know George Cukor was and his legacy. To me, he was Uncle George—a greater man in my life I wouldn't have had. My mom worked with Uncle George in "David Copperfield."

In that movie, my mother had that scene where she was dying. She was in great pain lying on her bed. My mother told me that, off camera, Uncle George was insisting her foot off camera. To achieve her expression of pain in the a deliberating her dying speech, he would, over once in a while, twist (laughter) and wring her foot. But they simulated great friends.

I looked out on that because when I came to New York to visit my mother, I got a part in a play in "The Importance of Being Earnest" at 11. Even though her time was a newspaper critic and the critics didn't come. Vivien Leigh, who came to school with my mother, and appear to watch. She finishes come and came it at her request. For gave me a contract.

I looked out that my first TV series, "Peyton Place," was popular. I was shocked out with my first husband (Frank Sinatra) because we ended up with so much social friendship. People don't know how kind he was to me through my first and what good friends we remained. I looked out in having the children that I have, in the excess I have had and the many people who have been in my life through that many years. I looked out that I am still working and to have had the health to enjoy all those things, life long and adventurous life.

MIA FARROW with Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick. The boy can hold a scare, she says.

I wouldn't imagine having that many children.

I know. I can't believe it myself sometimes but look, my eldest children, the twins, are now 26. I see the wonderful people they have become. They're so much help to me with the [family] that I now have who are in their early teens. I was probably pregnant with my youngest when I would do this but for having children as a single parent but it has given such meaning to my life.

How are the children with physical challenges faring?

Some of them have their struggles for sure and some of them since with very severe pain. Some of them children get worse. Of they were older and so much had already been done to them but I believe they're all going to be fine.

Have your twins with Andre inherited his great musical genes?

They play the piano but they're not pianists. One is a lawyer and one is a trader, or Lovely boys, and we had Fletcher to with. They all have their own personalities and they are sports and concerts. They love their father and they love the music but none of them chose their father's talent.

What do you cherish about your marriage to Andre?

I met him Saturday nothing about music or music. Frank had taught me a little bit but my classical music education came from Andre. From being backstage and hearing and seeing all those great performers and performances, music is still one of my best friends. He spent the Christmas holidays with us. I adore him and his wife, Anne-Sophie Mutter [acclaimed violinist]—she's also a great artist. Andre is brilliant. Plus! I lucky to be with him!

Where do you live now?

I live in Connecticut in a farmhouse that doesn't have real bing [laughter]. It was a farm—a nursery or more ago.

You still have this famous smile. Where do you find your inner beauty?

I feel very lucky in my age but I have enjoyed my life so much. I've been so lucky and I am aware of it at every moment. You know, to be born with all of you, to have a job that I can be proud to be in, I have been so fortunate.

You originally wanted to be a nun.

I didn't want to be just a nun. I wanted to be a missionary, a Carmelite. The more mild, you'll have to do a load of interpreting before anyone would consider taking you as a nun. So everyone's called, I didn't try.

What do you cherish about your relationship with Frank?

Regarding Frank's supposed infidelity, I am much less of it than anyone has ever written. Much of that has been supposition. If I was the only photographer of Frank Sinatra, you are extremely shy, sensitive man. He did step protective of me. And I'm protective of him even now. He was protective of him self and the persona that he built up. You know that the only thing he has ever said to me about Frank is he hates pictures of his face and to his eyes and in his early photographs. You just can't miss it. That was the Frank that I knew best and the best of our times together were very wonderful.

E-mail the columnist at <email_ADDRESS>@yahoo.com

RUSHES

Look-alikes Connie Sison, Audrey Tautou and Aiko Melendez

AUDREY Tautou

CONNIE Sison

PAOLO Contis

SINGER Ann Campos

FISIL McCartney and his wife Heather

ANGELINA Jolie and Brad Pitt

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 OVER THE HEDGE

2 THE DA VINCI CODE

3 THE DA VINCI CODE

4 POSEIDON

687-6963 GUARANTEED SEATS

Still together

Despite their denials, actor Dennis Trillo and beauty queen Carleen Aguilar are still very much "in." The award-winning actor dropped by the Miss Philippines-Earth victory party at the Carousel Garden in Mandaluyong City last week to pick up the TVP stunner.

By his lonesome

Actor Paolo Contis was by his lonesome when business frontrunner opened him in the ground floor of the Edsa Shangri-La Mall Mandaluyong City on Wednesday afternoon. The actor is romantically linked to actress-commercial model Isabel Oli.

Less successful try

Recently crowned Miss Philippines-Earth Catherine Versoza has revealed that she tried out for Binibining Pilipinas last March, but failed. Catherine said she was not prepared at the time, having been busy with school. Last month, she graduated from the University of the Philippines with honors.

Good contact

Before Miss Philippines-Air 2006 jumpers-up Ginger Ann Campos flew to Manila to join Miss Philippines-Earth, she had a photo session with Nerill Bertuba, official photographer of Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants. Ginger met the Albuerian bossman through an Albuerian colleague at work. It's a Los Angeles legal services company.

Gold digger?

In London, Paul McCartney's estranged wife said accusations that she married the ex-Beatle for his money were more demeaning than hearing a bygone parental shaving incident in newspapers, the Agence France Presse said Heather Mills McCartney, 38, considered the rumors "far more difficult to cope with" than the 1993 accident when she was hit by a police motorcycle and had to have her left leg amputated.

Jolie baby watch

In Swakopmund, Namibia, Reuters reported that Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie remained "almost invisible" in their resort dwelling, dashing reporters' hopes on getting a scoop-making scoop. Local tabloids are predicting the imminent arrival of the most famous celebrity baby of the year, Baby Brangelina. One said on Saturday that Jolie was to give birth within the next two days.

She's so sweety

From Edinburgh, MT reported that Scotsman Brad girl Kirsty Ambrose celebrated her 70th birthday with a glitzy party on board the Royal Yacht Britannia on Thursday. The 1960s era symbol from Dunfermline is best known for playing Bobby Pidot in the 1964 James Bond movie "Dr. No" in 1962.

"THE DATE | Life of Luck and Cody"

Disney's treat of 3s

FUN AND ACTION ON DISNEY CHANnel start today with three back-to-back-to-back episodes of a series, followed by a DC Original Movie!

"Teacher's Pet" the series starts at 6 p.m., and stars Leonard and his dog Spot—a talking canine that pursues the education. Spot disguises himself as a boy to attend school and he becomes the teacher's pet.

KID FIT

Then is "Teacher's Pet: The Movie," at 7:30 p.m., Spot takes matters into his own hands and enlists the help of an evil mad scientist to transform him into a real human!

Hilarious

On May 28, 5 p.m., watch the mischievous and hilarious antics of twins Zack and Cody as they make the Space Hotel and its guests crazy in "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody."

"TEACHER'S Pet"

Supernatural

Finally, join the other Disney cool twins, Alex and Camryn on a supernatural adventure-discovery in the TV premiere of "Halo of Twitches."

The girls are home in a magical longdoor called Coventry but are soon separated when their father sends them on earth for protection against evil forces. On their 21st birthday, the girls are reunited and discover that they have something wonderful in common.

But not everything's peachy. They soon find out that they must fight the evil forces that threaten Coventry and their very existence. "Twitch" airs tonight at 7:30 p.m.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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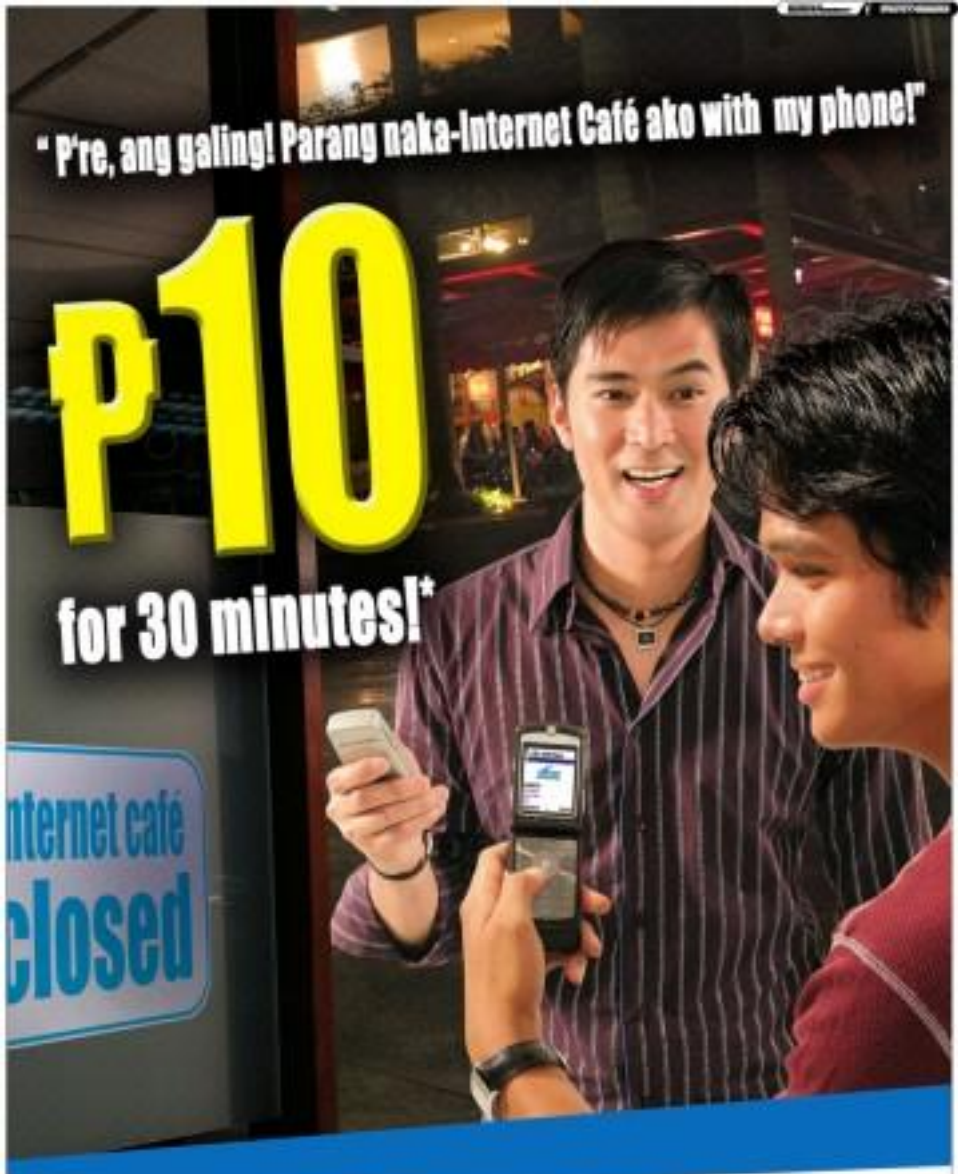

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SMART

ENTERTAINMENT

ELLIOTT Yamin

He had a feeling his time was up

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

FIRST-TIME AC-country hero is that there wasn't a dry eye at the CBS theater, where "American Idol" was held Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila).

He might regret look that earlier was there a dry eye in living source around the Philippines when we know that the reality talent search had been followed from Day 1.

As this season's second runner-up, Elliott Yamin bid the audience goodbye, having landed the least number of votes this week. the camera panned to judge Paula Abdul, who was shedding tears.

Just a few days earlier, she had admitted to an interview that she was rooting for this finalist from Richmond, Virginia.

During this exclusive interview made possible by Star World, the 27-year-old talked vaguely about how the show transformed him.

"Before this season," Elliott said, "I was just wanting to find my way as a person. I've risen become confident. I've accomplished what I set out to do. I can honestly say now that I have value. I'll be doing in the next few years."

The elimination of the 10th eyed, cool singer leaves Taylor Hicks, 29, and Katharine McPhee, 21, to face off in the final showdown on Tuesday, May 23 (Wednesday in the Philippines).

This last round was a close fight, as the semi-day results revealed, and Elliott, in the very least, had been "flattened to be in [such] a tight race."

But, he added, "I had a feeling all day and all night that my time was up."

When asked about his cowboy Claudette Elliott's name followed.

"I'm so happy to have gone through this entire experience with her," he said. "I think we all, as kids, strive to make our parents proud."

Gloudette was a fixture in the studio audience. "She exudes that pride and love for me when she's out there," Elliott said. "It fueled me."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Why do you think your story touched so many fans?

I'm emotional. It kind of runs in my blood. Maybe because I'm an underdog. Maybe I came across as a kid who came from nowhere. I guess they know I've beaten a few odds here and there.... I think people can identify with that.

Why is there such a strong connection between you and Paula?

I think maybe she loves my voice and enjoys my singing.

Can you tell us about your girlfriend, Amanda?

We have a great relationship and I'm looking forward to getting back to her arms sooner than later but no, we're not engaged, not even close.

CLOWNING around with Boy Abunda and Raymundo Bunoan in the 1980s

German Moreno considers his halcyon days in Clover, the Manila Grand Opera House and Sampaguita as the best years of his life

YESTERDAY

ON "KONDESANSI Bouquet" with Nora Aunor in the early 1970s

That's ... Kuya Germs!

By Reynel San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rony Nordiada
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

WHENEVER HE'S IN THE OLD Manila area, German Moreno makes certain to pass by where Clover Theater once stood. "On the corner of Echague (now Carlos Palanca Street), near Macleodtoy Recto and Plaza Goiti in Quiapo."

A week of memories floods his mind each time: "Long lines of fans waiting to buy tickets, big names on the marquee ... I can't help getting teary-eyed. I'm very sentimental."

Along with Dolphy and Rhita Iñurrieta, Moreno is one of the unsung big and most prolific graduates of bald-ohd who eventually ornamed over to the movies, radio and television.

Like most Filipinos of the wartime generations, his young life was fraught with drama.

"My father Jose Moreno was run over by an American vehicle during the Liberation," he remembers. He was only five years old. "My family didn't know that he had been confined at the nearest one Hospital. On the ninth day, my mother's friend Hilaria Liberato told him. He died the same day, as if he was just waiting for my mother."

His Clover stint is a favorite subject that often crops up on Moreno's GMA 7 late-night show "Entertainment Pinakamainit" and on his noontime talk-variety show of the same title on ABS-CBN.

In 1957, he was hired as janitor in the theater. "I was recommended by an aunt who was married to the captain of the fire brigade."

He recalled that William Perez, the theater owner, couldn't say no to the fire captain's wife. "Your hired even if I was only 17. But I wasn't hired in the payroll because I was underage."

Bewer, Moreno relates, was a close friend of bakidol legend Ruby de la Cruz.

For five years, he labored anonymously until he was promoted as "usherette trainee" in telenovela.

Between mopping floors and taking curtains, he was "discovered" by stage director Nene Grella.

Moreno recalls, "He was looking for someone short and comical to play Jessa Divine. He asked me to take my shirt off and rolled his eyes up, he asked the makeup artist to put [cloud] on me."

For his stage debut, he was ordered to the room.

"Usually, we changed the drama show every week, but our Bonoan play

WITH longtime jailer Mila

WITH Susan Roces and Gina Cobarrubias's child

was extended and ran for three weeks," he proudly notes. "After that, though, I went back to being a janitor."

His salary as janitor was P25 a week. "That's P100 a month. I also got one day off in a month."

As usher in Clover, he earned P30.

He also performed in some bona shows in the premieres. "In our act, [comedienne] Beauty used to come on my nose and for that I got P5."

It was a tough way to start a living.

"Times were harder in the 1950s, but if you ask me, I prefer my old life. He says Dolphy Ross," he notes nostalgically.

His perseverance was rewarded with the true grace in film by Spanish-Pan Lopanto dancer impresario Don Jose Zorub, Clover producer.

At his peak in Clover, Moreno ranked in Zorub's all-around assistant. "I also manned the ticket booths. On double tickets were P1 onstream, balcony was P0.60, and loge, our pass and twenty centavos."

When Clover closed shop, Cecilia Duque, the daughter of Jose Carlos Tondoro, asked Moreno "to help the Manila Grand Opera House by producing shows."

"Tio Tondoro owned the Clover," Moreno volunteers. "They asked me to pitch ideas. I brought a lot from Don Jose Zorub and I helped me as show producer in the Opera House."

By the time bodabil made its first here in the early 1960s, Moreno had proved to Sampaguita Pictures—where he had a directing gig as resident comedian, clubbed Arch Bowing-Ocampo.

"I would direct musical numbers with Tito de Villa," he reports. De Villa later enjoyed a second talent as the villainous on the TV soap "Sabong ng Bibuhay" in the 1970s.

P75 per movie

As a Sampaguita contract player, his first salary for was P75 per movie.

"Then, it was raised to P100, then to P150. Do my breath, you, my salary reached P1,500," he relates.

He also had the chance to play lead roles in Sampaguita. In "Bayong Mo, Mayo" with Lilia Lang and "Ofelia Lakwatsera" with Ofelia.

With his partner Boy Abunda, Moreno also appeared in a string of hits with Gloria Romero, Jaime Rome and the Imperial "Bs".

"We were always the comic relief," he quips. "Best job was to make people laugh, sounds off the set.

"There was a time we made two movies back-to-back," he remembers.

From the set of the musical "Bakekang Bakekang" in the Sampaguita Studios in Quezon City, they decided at dinner to [illegible] but the next movie "Mga Kuwento ng Buwigilan." "They called it lagare."

They literally roughed it, acting a skit by six American workers that had no script.

"We were mocking all throughout the film to make it funny," he jokes.

In the middle of a tight scene, they received word that Dr. Jose Perez, Sampaguita big boss, wanted them back in Manila—pronto!

"So the director decided to kill us in the next movie," he guffaws. "We had had our dinners. We left Manila early in the morning and were back by the end of the day." (They, his co-helpers are "Pedring Salagan.")

By the early 1970s, he was also observing movies for Sampaguita. "My biggest hit was 'Iisa' and 'Pip.' It broke box-office records at that time. It was shown at Avenue Theater for the first Manila Film Festival. It was the comeback movie of the then Aunor/Vilma Santos tandem."

SIRMAH'S "Payasa" tux and dress figures in the Howard museum

He also made fine use of his Clover and Sampaguita training when he hosted the Sunday noontime shows "Germabit," "Germospecial" and "Bibo Supershow" which ran for 18 years from the late 1970s until the 1990s.

In the 1980s, he also masterminded the reality show "Tuli's Entertainment," which served as the template for current talent searches "Starmeek" and "Star Circle Quest."

"In those days it was a novelty for a local TV show to have a new model and an every week—Jovie Villanueva was rewhen Rosemary Brown. I gathered the concepts after our Clover production days," he notes.

He's still at it. "Walang Tulugan" (late bakudbut nights) still exudes a distinct bodabil vibe.

Those days, Moreno also hosts GTV's "Germoseries," a showcase of Sampaguita movies that also features recollections of the stars of those vintage films.

"I interviewed my friends Gloria Romero, Hilda Koronel and Barbara Perez for the show. We had fun reminiscing," he points out.

Does who christened him Boy Germs?

"Ike Jaime Infante is our movie person he had worked with in Sampaguita.

"It was Jaymie Rivera who first called me Germs, but it was Boots Anover who christened it to Germs," he says. With a smile.

ROUNDUP

'Himan Pa'

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Himan Pa (Dito Muna Uli Muna)" has been invited to the "4th Festival of Festivals (FOF)" to be held in 10 Febr'ary, Toronto. From June 22 to 25.

This is according to festival director Dwight Dykeman, who announced his choices on Lenny Joy Abenir of 93.9 Yfm's production of "Himan Pa."

"We plan to close [the film] on June 25, and probably one encore also," Dykeman said.

"Himan Pa," Jade Enriquez to Dito and a misspent Cebuano tells of a barbara per school teacher (Lisa Lim-Wilson) commissioned by American (Robert Hayes).

The movie won Balbuena the "Sa-ley Showcase" of the Busan International Film Festival in March, persons among the Pilipino films in the festival of the Third Nigeria Film Festival in Shanghai, China, where filmed.

"Festival of Festivals" is Toronto's biggest non-competitive festival of recent individual by works of international and Canadian cinema. The festival is licensed under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), according to its website www.filmfest.ca

Manuel E. Cruz

'Sayaw'

Final Cinema's independent short film "Sayaw" will launch its first ever screenings on May 21 to May 31 cinema in Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

"Sayaw" is a poetic look into the life of an aspiring dancer. The short film is produced by Barbara and Mark Meer under Hollywood by Productions. The first of three screenings starts at 8 p.m. Admission is free.

Manuel E. Cruz

Cannes kickoff

Cannes, France — Competition of the Cannes Film Festival got off to a strong start on Thursday with two Hollywood films and a politically-charged historical movie about Algerian independence among the 20 movies in the running for the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or.

"Da Vinci Code" by Chinese director Lou Ye is a complex love story set to [illegible] of how religion has affected the lives of those around it.

"Days of Glory" by Rachid Bouchareb tells the story of three Algerian soldiers who fought for France in World War II but were denied the same pensions as their French colleagues after the war.

HOWARD

Ron Howard's "The Da Vinci Code" is the adaptation of the 2003 Dan Brown mystery novel that has sold more than 60 million copies worldwide.

The story sees Tom Hanks as Robert Langdon, a Harvard professor who is drawn into a murder mystery that leads him to search for the Holy Grail.

Audrey Tautou plays Sophie Neveu, a French police cryptologist who helps Langdon in his quest.

Ian McKellen plays Sir Leigh Teabing, a British historian who is also a friend of Langdon.

Jean Reno plays Bezu Fache, a police captain who is hunting Langdon for the murder of the curator of the Louvre Museum in Paris.

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AFP

Deadly twist

Los Angeles — Paris "Bo" D.C. "Jones" by Heidi Swanson with subsidiary roles.

Marlon Hooper played by Mitchell Hoog, who was killed in a car crash on Thursday night in Colorado.

Bobby's character was cast with the show, which follows the wealthy Bellcourt Bunch. Collin Hanks, Emmy Rossum, Jamie Lee and Jessica Alba all co-star.

'America's Got Talent'

Los Angeles — "America's Got Talent," the new TV contest that promises to find us a grab bag of singers, dancers, comedians and more, has an eclectic panel of judges to match.

British media figure Piers Morgan, David Hasselhoff ("Baywatch"), and Brandy ("Moesha") will be scrutinizing upcoming stars for the NBC series scheduled next month, the network said Thursday.

The program, from "American Idol" judge Simon Cowell and Fremantle Media, the company that produces the Idol singing contest, will be broadcast from Bogota, Colombia, and Manila, Philippines.

"We have chosen three judges from three different backgrounds. I can't be unexcited," Cowell said in a statement Thursday.

The comedy contest begins with a two-hour episode on Wednesday, June 21. **AP**

Scorsese docus

Washington — Director Martin Scorsese is best known for movies such as "Raging Bull," "Taxi Driver" and "Goodfellas," but he will be honored next month for his contributions to documentary filmmaking, said on Thursday.

Scorsese's documentary work includes the concert movie released film "The Last Waltz," a rock-and-music portrait, "The Blues," and "Bob Dylan: No Direction Home."

Organizers said, "His documentaries about great music and their artists have set a standard for American musical culture and influenced countless others."

Reuters

ON "SNS Superstars" with Sharon Cuneta and Zsa za Padilla in the early 1980s

WITH STARS as ushers (from left) Vilma Santos, Roderick Paulate, Sharon Cuneta, Vic Sotto, Ruz Segovia and Cacai Bautista in the early 1990s

The Cascades back June 16 to launch world tour

THE CASCADES WILL BE BACK in Manila in June for a series of performances that officially launches its 2006 international concert tour.

Dubbed "The Cascades 2006 World Tour," the three-month, 15-city, five-nation tour to be produced by Steve O'Neal Productions, premiers June 16, 7 p.m., at the luxurious Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Other shows: Subic Freeport, June 17; Iloilo City, June 18; Bacolod City, June 23; Singapore, June 25; Hard Rock Cafe Makati, June 28; Davao City, June 30; and Cagayan de Oro City, July 2.

Hong Kong, July 7; Bangkok, July 9; then Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Reno and Silver Jubilee in August.

Call 911-5555.

All-kids group

The Cascades, a singing and dance group composed of five kids, is being launched by the Casino for Pop Music Philippines to mold show-biz moguls.

The group's members are Raphiel Pangandaman, Mike Raymundo, Christelle Ong, Jasmin Salvo and Carlos Gonzaga.

They performed last May 14 at Fort Canteen along Corregidor, awaits Answer to QC Today show will be in Immortal Ballet tomorrow at SM City Fairview; May 23 at Old Navaltrade; and May 28 at SM City Sucat Parañaque.

The Cascades is managed by Butch Albarracin, founder and CEO of the CPMP Inc.

SHOW TIME

Today

Ana Hilton at Kamilla Mondo: Join the Club at Robinson's Place Ilocos Sur

Mary Villar at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

Tomorrow

Miss Jose Jeanlie at Sirocco on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Myke Gidong at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

May 23

K and The Boxers at Dylan's Greenhills

Margarita at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

Jojo A. All the Way at RJ Cocktail Bar

May 24

Meridian Bikini Team with Chanel Pyle at the SBC Boat

Jojo A. All the Way at RJ Cocktail Bar

K and The Boxers at Ebenezer Acoustic Bar

Mira Jo Sarmiento, Biz Squire, Gwen Jacob's

CONTENDERS

Jill Maher at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge, 9 p.m.

May 25

Jennifer Fabie at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

Jojo A. All the Way at RJ Cocktail Bar

May 26

Silver: The Songs of Vehnee Saturno at the Annerie Coliseum with Jun-R, Rochelle Ann Ong, Mark Bautista, Jonha Fernandez and guests. Also Mae Salazar, The Company's and Marvin Marcos

Marivic Soseñas at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

K and The Boxers at Kenny Rogers Roasters Greenhills

CASCADES

with Ebenezer at Subterbia Bistro

92.3's Felavelli with Movietickets at RJ Cocktail Bar

May 27

Gilli Moran in a live taught show at the Manila Mandarin, 8 p.m.

Hubb Mae Quilala to hit the movie cinema in the Alice Theater

The Company at Hyatt Regency Hotel's Cabana Bar

Jojo A at Metropole Star Mustang

Ana Hilton at Kamilla Mahler

Join the Club at Robinson's Home East

K and The Boxers at Kenny Rogers

Christian Bautista and Jennylyn Mercado at Stonecraft Ethar 3, 6:30

May 28

Mary Villar at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

May 29

Myke Gidong at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

May 30

Jojo A. All the Way at RJ Cocktail Bar

K and The Boxers at Dylan's Greenhills

Margarita at the Manila Pavilion Hotel's Bradbar Lounge

May 31

RJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge, 9 p.m.

K and The Boxers at Kenny Rogers

Ma-Yi production nominated for Drama Desk award

From page A13

structive and even ironic recollections of the numerous scenes that another religion-based movie, "The Passion of the Christ," also enjoyed some years ago.

In fact, it can be said that "Code" is the opposite, negative but mirror image of "Passion" (Mel Gibson's film focused Jesus' divinity; "Code" disposes it.

And yet, both movies, albeit to radically contrasting ways, make viewers remember their faith—or lack of it. If the controversies plays out in a positive way, it could even have a beneficial effect in some people's lives.

Let's hope that happens, because "Code's" more negative tendencies have already wreaked too much psychic damage. We can understand why some people have grown so agitated over it, pro and con, but let's all remind ourselves: It's only a movie after all.

On Cartoon Network

ONWORD said: May 20, Cartoon Network's reverse Tiny TV, a special programming block for pre-schoolers and moms, Weekdays at 10 a.m., "Onward" stars a blue, friendly octopus all set to explore the bright lights of the big city and embark on interesting adventures with Air Friends. The series features on the experiences and problems that kids face.

At 10:30 a.m., "Treehouse Tales" comes in on Red, a young fire truck who wants to make a big difference in the world. However, he must go to school before he can pursue his dream.

'Get Smart'

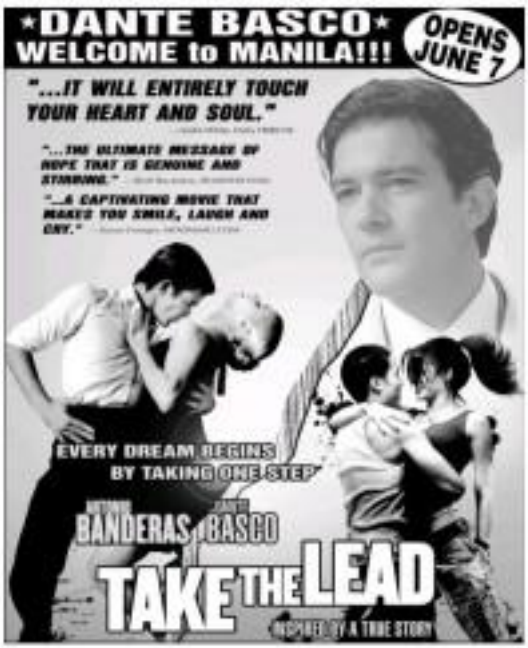
THE HIT COMEDY detective series, "Get Smart," is being replayed on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. on Star World. Set in 1965, the show highlights the blunders of the inept, underpaid and overzealous Agent 86, Maxwell Smart. He works for CONTROL, an agency whose mission is to protect the world from the agents of CHAOS.

'Just for Kicks'

THE ASIAN premiere of "Just for Kicks," Nickelodeon's new live-action comedy series, will be at 6 p.m. on (time?).

Developed by Whoopi Goldberg in collaboration with Tom Lewandoski, Steve Hendershott and Scott McNamara, the show revolves around four young and independent teenage girls from different ethnic backgrounds. They belong to an elite soccer team, the Kwest Kickers. The show promotes a positive and active lifestyle, and deals with issues such as friendship, indigenous dress, boys, body image and bias.

It will air regularly every weekend at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.



GOODBYE is fun ... for now.

He had a feeling his time was up

From page A1

How your third song on performance night, "Always," pretty much sounded like he was saying goodbye. Have did that affect you?

It's kind of sounded like he was saying goodbye because we know in the past, we [had] gone quite so can much critics.

What would your future albums look like?

I'd like it to have a real soulful, R&B kind of sound, though I wouldn't be afraid to try smooth or pop-y. I think I've proven that I am versatile.

What's [it] a song to you that you might actually make it pretty far?

After my "Monday's" performance—not necessarily because of Simon's [approving] comment, but just the way I performed the song. I think that was translated for me, the first time that I kind of separated myself from boyband or manband, so to speak.

You looked like the happiest contestant, smiling and laughing more than anyone else. We're you really that happy?

Absolutely, man. That was just the best thing I'd ever done for myself.

Did you and Taylor bond over being manila cutest?

We bonded over everything, man. Taylor's one of the funniest people I've ever met on this entire planet. He definitely knows how to keep the gut busting and keep things fun. I'm going to miss our everyday misunderds.

How do you like the look that the show's stylists created for you?

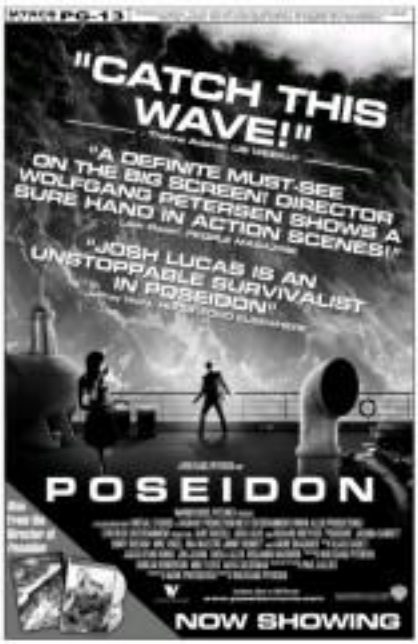
I love it, man. I love the clothes I've been dressed in, and so on, all I did was grow out my hair. I never knew there was this much hair to begin with. It's the longest it's ever been. It's cool.

What's the best piece of advice you got from anyone throughout the season?

Stevie Wonder told us how important it was to connect with the audience and make every song you sing your own. That meant the world to me, for the simple fact that it came from Stevie Wonder, and I was in his presence. Plus the fact that he told that I should [keep] singing in a positive tone—it doesn't get better than that.

'All kids set out to make their parents proud'

[Catch the performance finale on Star World this Wednesday, May 24 (Manila time) 8 p.m., with replays at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Grand finale will be aired here in real time on Thursday, May 25 at 8 a.m., with replays at 2 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.]



Ma-Yi production nominated for Drama Desk award

KEEN'S GOOD NEWS ALL THE way from New York City: The Ma-Yi (Asian-American) Theater Company's Dwight D. Oh'dell (a executive director), has received its first nomination for the prestigious Drama Desk theater awards.

Its acclaimed production, "the foreigners Beyond This Point," has been nominated for Outstanding Play." Playwright's play began the 17th season for Ma-Yi. Lequiz revised the original script with the company, presenting a workshop staging last August, followed by its Off-Broadway debut.

Ley Serrano directed the August reading and September production of "the Foreigners." The acting ensemble included Ron Domingo, Lenny Kei Chan, Wai Ching Ho, Wonsle Jao, Kenya Taeru Lee, Abby Boyle, Eau Ellenby, and Henry Yuk.

Credits: scenic design by Anne rau, costume design by Carol Bailey, lighting design by Jophy Waldemar, and sound design by Edson Obispo.

Other productions nominated for the "Outstanding Play" Drama Desk award are Mona Bennett's "The History Boys," David Hare's "Skull Happens," Martin McDonagh's "The Lieutenant of Inishmore," Terrence McNally's "Deuteration or the Stuff of Dreams," and Craig Wright's "The Rocks."

The winners of the award will be announced on May 21 at Lincoln Center, during the 51st Drama Desk Awards Ceremony, hosted by Harvey Fierstein.

In the past, Ma-Yi has received nine Obie (Off-Broadway) awards, most recently for its production of "The Romance of Magno Rubio," cited as "one of the best plays of the New York theater season" by the New York Times.

Nestor U. Torre

Ma-Yi is doing well, indeed.

In addition, Ma-Yi is proud to announce our support projects by members of its Writers' Lab: Qui Nguyen's "Living Dead in Denmark," presented starting May 21 at Center Stage by the Vampire Cowboys Theater Company, and Suzanne Lori's "Words," presented starting June 2 at Urban Stages by the Genesis Theater Group.

And ongoing until May 28 is Ma-Yi's community partnership with Channel 13 WNET for their Due Tour series—programming that celebrates the rich culture and diversity of Asian and Pacific American Heritage.

Channel 13 is airing programs that encompass stories from all over Asia, as well as from Asians living in America.

Finally, Ma-Yi is participating in the first national conference devoted to Asian American Theaters Titled "First Big Bang: The Explosion of Asian American Theaters," the conference will convene in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles from June 11 to 25.

Exemplary performances

More than 200 theater professionals, educators and artists will attend the three-day event. Ma-Yi's own Jonjo Ortioll will chair a panel entitled "Widening Asian American Theater in the 21st Century."

The conference will showcase exemplary performances and plan for the first National Asian American Theater Festival in 2007 in New York City.

The festival is being spearheaded by Ma-Yi, Pan Asian Rep and the National Asian American Theater Company.

More good news from New York: Filmmaker Ethel Carrillon and Nana Banasic are screening their award-winning documentary, "Bunso," at the Imagination Theater on May 24.

The poignant film is about three boys struggling to survive in a crowded jail in the Philippines alongside adult rapists and murderers. The film takes viewers into the surreal world of children caught between constant poverty and the law, contextualizing 10 deep insights in a rarely seen adolescent and street smarts, pain and humor.

Awards that Bunso, the World Intermational Film Festival, Prague, Grand Prix, ISH International Film Festival, Italy, Platinum Award, Houston Int'l Film Festival, Gold Award, Int'l Film Festival, Hollywood, Gold Award, Int'l Film Festival, Los Angeles, Silver Award, Int'l Film Festival, Hollywood, Special Jury Prize, Peoplefilm Association, Best Human Rights Film Festival, And Best Short Film, Gawad Urian, Manila.

Our support of Ma-Yi's work goes back a long way, as we're sure Ma-Yi's current leadership is bringing recognition all over the world.

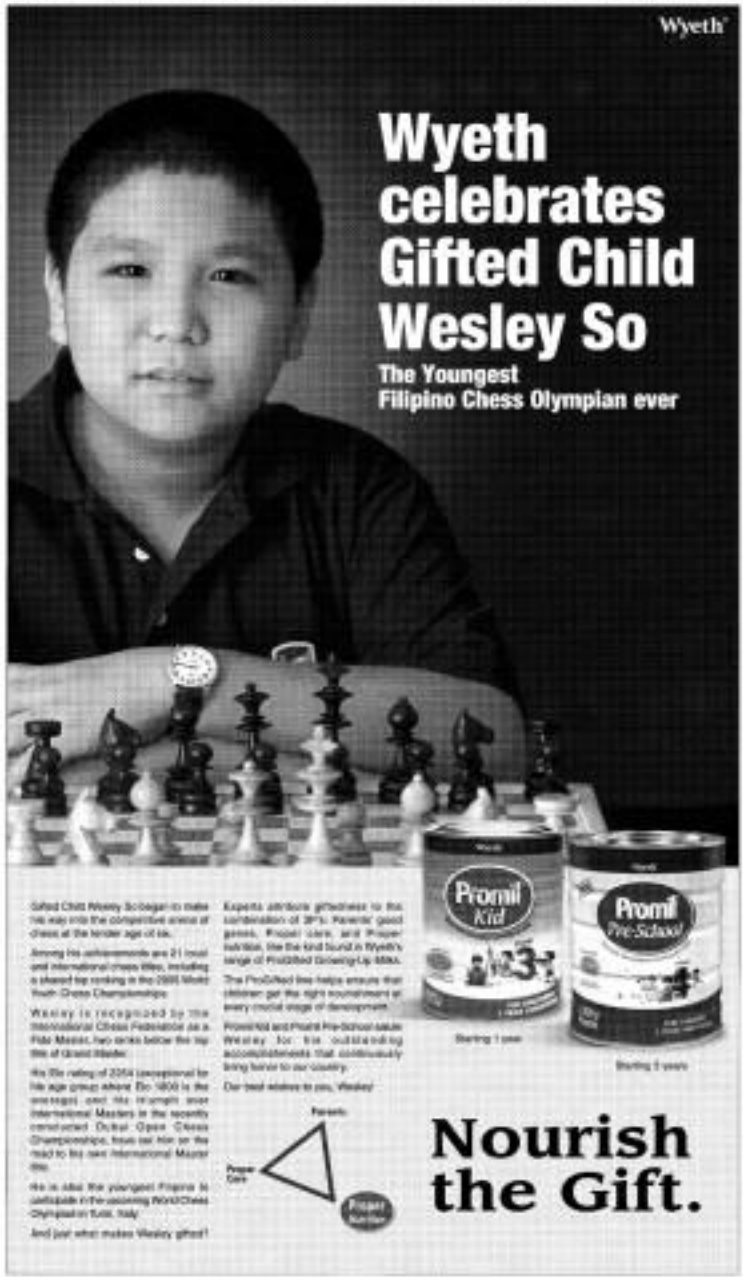
'Da Vinci' compared to 'Passion'

THE GUINO said he "The Da Vinci Code" is over. Now will it last to the celebration of viewers?

With all of the good-natured and sympathetic controversy that's been swirling around it for months, it'll probably become a should-see movie for many people, and end up as the year's biggest blockbuster.

In this light, it brings up to-

MA-YI 6A



ProGifted Growing-Up Milks Salute Wesley So, Youngest PI Chess Olympian

ProGifted Growing-Up Milks send their congratulations to Wesley.

To who made his the Philippine team slated to participate in the World Chess Olympiad. The event will be held in Turin, Italy from May 10 to June 5. Following his outstanding success at a qualifier tournament, 12-year-old Wesley joins Grand Masters Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre, and Joey Antonio, as well as National Open Champion Darwin Laylo and Fide Master Oliver Dimatlalog.

Wesley recently arrived from Dubai, UAE where he participated in the 8th Dubai Open Chess Championships. Crowning the tournament as a Fide Master, a title awarded by the World Chess Federation, Wesley beat International Masters Ivan Sokjer of Croatia and Fouad El Taher of Egypt among others, paving the way to obtaining his own International Master title. The Dubai tournament served as his preparation for the more grueling Olympiad.

Wesley is no meaningful success. He started playing chess when he was 5 years old. His list of achievements includes various championships in both local and international arenas, among these is a shared top ranking in the World Youth Chess Championships held last year.

"His wins are from Heaven. Cecile had an early start at a successful career, but it may not have been possible without my father's guidance. Wesley brought what he knew and helped refine what Wesley does as his strong point – his love for the game of chess. 'Gusto ko an alaga ang chess, at sumasaya ako dito,' Wesley says.

Aside from proper guidance Wesley's parents were also certain in giving him the proper nourishment. His ProGifted Growing-Up Milks played a part for Wesley's outstanding his growing up years.

ProGifted has LIA and LA, Zinc and Iron nutrients essential in the development of the kid's brain as well as enhancing capacity.

Promil Pre-School has energy-giving nutrients, Vitamin A and Iron to help nourish him in his active school life.

With proper care and guidance from his parents, proper nutrition, and the ProGifted Growing-Up Milks, Wesley continues his exceptional talent and is very well on his way in reaching his full potential. Onward to Grand Master, Wesley!

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Farmers go into direct selling /B3

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

The Philippines' Biggest Shopping Mall Opens Today in Pasay City!

A PIONEERING woman who wore two different sandals to support her four children.

JOAQUIN QUINCHON Quiroga Abiva started a business with her husband in the '30s.

Legacy of '30s Filipina entrepreneur

Woman ahead of her time sets up shop that's 70 yrs old and counting

By Margie Quiroga-Espino

THE TYPICAL FILIPINA during the 1930s was a homemaker who tended the house and the kids. Rare was a woman who worked and rarer still was a woman who went into entrepreneurship.

Asuncion Quiroga Abiva was one such woman.

A schoolteacher in the 1930s, musician, together with husband Luis Jr., also a conductor, published reviewers manuals for civil service exams of pawnbrokers and junior and senior teachers under a firm called Abiva Press in 1936.

The husband and wife team were really entrepreneurs. They also started a ferry business from Manila to Iloilo. But they gave up on this business.

The publishing business, however, grew quickly. It started as a one-room affair on Tetuan[illegible] Street in

LEGACY B3

FROM A ONE-ROOM affair in 1936, Abiva grew into an integrated operation with offices in other cities.

Make sure your unit remains in the black while you're on the green.

From Visibility, the devices that make it possible.

VISIBILITY

This summer, enjoy our lowest balance transfer rate – 0.88%!*

Now, you can pay less interest on your non-HSBC credit card balance with HSBC's lowest Balance Transfer rate ever. Hurry, this rate is available only until 13 June 2006. Transfer to HSBC today. For more details call 818-1818.

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The world's local bank

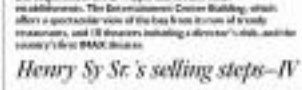
Scrapbooking fever reaches RP

THE MUCH-AWAITED opening of the SM Mall of Asia. Located on a 60-hectare property overlooking Manila Bay, the 386,000-square-meter mall is envisioned as the premier destination mall in the Asia-Pacific region. The complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways. The main mall includes shopping and dining establishments, the food court, and the country's first Olympic-size ice skating rink. The Seaside Parking Building, formerly the SM Department Store, while the North Parking Building includes the SM Hypermarket and other establishments. The Entertainment Center Building, which offers a spectacular view of the bay from its row of trendy restaurants, and 18 theaters including a director's club, and the country's first IMAX theater.

Henry Sy Sr.'s selling steps—IV

GE FOUNDER AND CHAIR Henry Sy is subject to SM Mall of Asia "the greatest project of my life" in a speech before the Management Association of the Philippines.

As it opens today, it is a good time to look back on the series of rounds it has the consumers of Philippine retail market.



SM CITY STA. ROSA opens on February in this dynamic investment center, tourism and education center, and apparently mainly residential community in Laguna. SM City Clark opens in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Angeles City, Pampanga on May 12. But it opens with flurry announcement: SM City Clark's carnival, bicycle and bike rubbing, and free-standing bands a boat ride and elevated walkway to the Kazanbas Park transport terminal.

Legacy of '30s . . .

(Continued from B1)

Quisqui, Manila but by 1939, moved to a bigger place on Mabini in the former Cuyo T. Delgado.

Business was picking up when World War II broke out. And in 1942, Joaquin tried to head to Abra and died of a heart attack.

Asunción was left to fend for her four children—Nena, Felicito, Rosalio and Luis Jr.

"It was at the height of war and countless checkpoints by the Japanese Army and while abroad a cargo truck provided by Ramon Magsaysay to transport our father to the final resting place in Tayabas, I could see how my mother greatly grieved the loss of an author. But then and there I also sensed and learned from her inner strength and determination," wrote Nena in a tribute to Asunción.

The children opened a movie shop in her house and hired who tires to repair vehicles and trucks.

She also bought and sold old clothes at Ilaya Street just to purchase a bag of rice and manage to keep the family intact.

After the war, Asunción made coffee from roasted rice and tobacco and sold them along Azcárraga, Binondo to support her family. She also rented out some rooms to boarders.

Nena recounted how Asunción would go to the Bank of the Philippine Islands to exchange her war money for new bills. But then and there I also sensed and learned from her inner strength and determination," wrote Nena in a tribute to Asunción.

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In 1945, she had some savings and rebuilt Aklan Press. She received requests for schoolbook materials from teachers and some sent the publishing of elementary and high school books.

Aklan prospered in publishing the Civil English Skills Program which included learning centers and language laboratories.

In 1965, it became the exclusive distributor of IBM Diamond and Bancroft typewriters.

In 1969, it set up its own printing facility—the Aklan Press. It was the first press to print Globe Mercator cards using paintings on the seven commemorative Asunción.

For 70 years, Aklan has remained a family-owned company, transition successfully passed on the helm of Nena's children and raised her retirement years smoothly.

Recently, Asunción's first grandson, Jorge A. Lucero took over the reigns of the publishing house. It was passed to him by his late fa., the youngest child of Asunción.

Jorge grew up within the walls of the publishing house, where once within the family compound. He started "working" when he was ten years old collecting cash in the office.

As he grew older, Jorge contributed his time to what was then working in the packing section of the publishing house, preparing textbooks for delivery to various schools.

Being the eldest grandson had its perks. He was Asunción's favorite. He was encouraged to take business courses in college.

But while Jorge practically grew up in the publishing business, he was unable to work in other firms.

After getting a Marketing degree in 1983 from Ateneo University, he was lured as an assistant brand manager at SF Ajuris, a management services company in consumer food items.

It was no surprise then that when he joined Aklan in 1992, he set up the marketing department.

Jorge admits the textbook publishing business is a very tough business because of the tendency of many publishers to resort to ordinary and cheap concept previous to sell the books.

He says the latter paid out by some publishers amounts for up to 60 percent of the cost of books.

"We do not go into these kinds of dealings," Jorge states. He says what Aklan does is compete in much lower prices and better quality books. This is achieved through efficiency and an integrated operation.

There are about 80 textbook publishers in the country and the top among the biggest and is the oldest.

Jorge also admits there is a dearth of textbook writers in the country as it loses its teachers to the US and other countries where they get much higher pay.

But the new Aklan remains committed to continuing the legacy Asunción started, and will believe that Aklan's textbook writers are "author builders."

JORGE A. Lucero vows to uphold the values his grandmother, Asunción, instilled in the textbook publishing business.

By Blessy Sirgan
Contributor

SCRAPBOOKING IS A CRAFT that has enjoyed tremendous growth in recent years. All over the world, scrapper's scrapbook enthusiasts get together and scrapbook at each other's homes, trade destinations, clubs, conventions and even cruises.

In the United States, the scrapbooking industry is worth about $7 billion and is growing by about 17 percent yearly due largely to multi-level marketing enterprises. Scrapbooking has even surpassed golf in popularity—recently, photos that were in four households in the US but someone drawing golf, while one in three households has a scrapper.

Today, the scrapbooking craze has started to catch on in the Philippines—scrapbooking supplies are less filling bookstore shelves and specialty scrapbooking stores are mushrooming.

Happy scrappers

Every woman being under a way to leave his or her mark in the world. This is why scrapbooking takes a powerful hold on consumers. With the chronicle pace of today's increasingly high-tech society, the appeal of putting a personal touch to one's treasured memories is understandable.

Scrapbooking, the craft of compiling significant memorabilia in to-do-text albums, not only allows those to unleash their creativity; it also serves as a way of preserving memories for subsequent generations. In other words, simply, scrapbooking has evolved to be a significant personal craft that allows one to creatively collect and share memories.

And scrapper Jen Amena says, "scrapbooking gives me both an emotional and artistic outlet that is all my own, not that no one needs to judge except me. It is also one of the most wonderful gifts I have ever given to others."

Mayet Villareal, who has been scrapbooking for years, says others, "scrapbooking is a very unique and personal way of keeping memories, and it's a beautiful legacy you can pass on to future generations."

Scrapbooking entrepreneur Sesserie Madrid-Gill, "scrapbook is the storybook of your life. It's the art of preserving memories that matter most to you, to create a link to your past so that you can look back and remember."

Not just cut-and-paste

Anybody can scrap about any topic under the sun, but scrapbooking isn't randomly sticking a thousands of items onto a piece of paper.

"There are basic design principles that can help you to your layout, Phyllis Bisay has an idea to follow, there's some definite lines that goes into it. This includes the balance—you don't plaster all the pictures from your album to your scrapbook. You have to choose pictures that say something or bring out a certain feeling," says Bisayo.

A scrapbook has three main components: pictures, title and journal. The journal component sets scrapbooks apart from photo albums. Accompanying texts bring to life the story behind the pictures.

Embellishments are contributors to the aesthetic appeal of the scrapbook. They come in the form of stick-ons, die-cuts, metal scissors, ribbons, rub-ons, etc. Embellishments usually follow trends in fashion, in terms of style and colors.

Scrapbooks can be themed, documenting milestones and important events such as birthdays, holidays, and weddings.

"People normally scrap events," added Madrid. "But everyday moment can be just as meaningful. You don't even have to scrap chronologically you can start with whatever catches your attention."

Scrapper's attic

Filipino scrappers bemoan the lack of scrapbooking materials in the local market, the avid scrapper herself, Madrid decided to bring in scrapbooking products from the US so that Filipino scrappers could have more choices available to them.

"I have a group of friends who usually get together to scrap. When I brought in scrapbooking supplies from my US trips, my friends usually bought from me, so I decided to put up an online store

FILIPINOS' artistic desire to keep their memories in style has made scrapbooking popular.

to make a wider range of products available to more people."

Madrid's website, www.mydiscoveries.com, was named for her attic, where her scrapping gives frequently meets. It features an online store that has practically everything a scrapper would need. The store sells pre-printed papers, stencils, adhesives, embellishments and charms, alphabet and page protectors, cutting and embossing machines, foam and rubber stamps, paint, chalk, and an assortment of threads and ribbons. Customers deposit their money into Madrid's account, and when the payment is cleared, deliveries can be made within one day for Manila, or two days for provincial orders.

The items are brought in from the States but in the future, I aim to come up with locally made embellishments, with our wealth of indigenous materials," says Madrid.

The website also features a gallery features, and articles links. Scrappers can also apply for free membership to a scrapping club, which entitles them to newsletters, scrapbooking updates, tips, contests and even private sales.

Scrappers can also visit the My Little Attic booth at the Scrap Fest 2006 Expo at the ground floor of the Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas. from 11 noon to 5 p.m. The Scrap Fest is open to all for a registration fee of P300, inclusive of materials and snacks. Activities for the Scrap Fest are demonstrations, workshops, an open house, games, and raffles. For inquiries, email mmotto@mydiscoveries.com.

Petroleum firm gets slice of retail market

THE JEWEL that glows and sells its own name's reason to give up at Caltex

COFFEE, anyone?

By Abigail L. Ho

A COMPANY DOESN'T HAVE TO be No. 1 to offer its patrons the best products and services it possibly could.

Chevron, one of the world's biggest oil companies, seemingly have adopted that philosophy, as proven by its units in Singapore and the Philippines.

Here in the country, Chevron Philippines Inc. has a 30-percent share of the total oil retail market, behind Petron Prime Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

Since it shut down its refinery here, it has lost quite a bit of its share of the retail pie. Despite that, the company has strived to maintain its record of quality service and has continued to offer top-of-the-line fuel products to consumers.

Chevron Philippines' policy personnel and public affairs manager Mark Quebral said this was the oil firm's way of differentiating itself in the retail market.

"We try and find ways to differentiate ourselves in the retail market by offering a new and superior gasoline product to [to] us. We have also upgraded our facilities, including lighting, forecourt and bathrooms. We have upgrading to standards," he said.

The oil company has remarked more than P175 million this year to beef up its existing service stations, upgrade its and deployed more gas tanks and upgrade the capacity of its Tabaco "drive" gasoline in the country.

Chevron Singapore Pte. Ltd. is doing the same thing, with particular focus on unique products and services.

One such unique offering is the "Called Three Words," a slogan we much that uses "the latest boon technology for a cleaner, more smooth than ever before," according to Chevron Singapore retail sales manager Teo Khun.

A hit with the kids

She said the Caltex Snow Wash, which was being offered in 11 out of 19 Caltex stations in Singapore, entailed having vehicles jet-sprayed with a layer of wash and shampoo. Then jet-rinsed and hand dried.

"The idea Snow Wash is aimed from the car shampoo and wax from that is so clean and light that it's like snow," she said.

She said this unique offering has not only made vehicle owners, but also with the kids that serve with their parents during car wash sessions.

Since the introduction of the Snow Wash in December 2002, the total revenue from car washes and non-retail revenue for sites grew dig Caltex stations all over Singapore did between 250 and 300 Snow Washes each day.

"The sight of a car being drenched with foam, snow-white foam, before it is instantly wiped, tugs at the kids' adults. Inviting gold dearly for them too due to the unique fun system in Singapore, reckon the Snow Wash is safer, brighter, and cleaner than conventional car washes," she said.

The million are enjoyed offering Svant Snow Wash in mid-2005, which left retailers smelling like orange, applewar grapes.

The orange, pink and purple foam used by the Foam Snow Wash are on even bigger hit with the kids.

Khun said some Snow Wash fans who never customarily bring their cars to some Caltex stations in Thailand and Malaysia. There were no plans yet of bringing the service to the Philippine market, however.

Beyond the ordinary

Apart from its unique products and services, Quebral said it's the Alert convenience stores and chest located in Chevron service sites have differentiators for the Caltex brand.

Several of the oil firm's line Blue stores had Coffee Plus stations, which offered customers the experience of being in a mini coffee shop, complete with various types of coffee, coffee blends, hot and cold tea selections, and pastries, he said.

Some Blue Blade also offered Slice Toast, Midnight Choco Fudge Cakes and self-serve ice cream, he said. Some of its Seven-Eleven

Expressway stations also sold the popular Baguio Country Cafe brunch and pastries.

He said its convenience sites and many other stations also provided WiFi (wireless fidelity) connectivity to mobile professionals wanting to surf the net and the Internet even while on the road.

"We have clean, well-lighted and safe facilities. We have the branded convenience stores and many more restaurants, on-board quick service restaurants like McDonald's, KFC, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, Brotherly, and others, to satisfy our customers' needed requirements," he said.

In Singapore, Khun said Chevron banked on the Caltex brand's "Clean" promise, which covered the quality of fuels, cleanliness, and people, to differentiate it from other oil firms.

"Caltex now has a premium gasoline, Caltex with Techron, that provides unbeatable cleaning power and performance. Our customers must always be clean and tidy to make our sites more attractive and inviting. Our people should also offer great service by treating all customers as valued individuals," she emphasized.

The oil firm's ultimate goal, she said, was to help make life easier for motorists.

Quebral said the same was true with Caltex in the Philippines.

"We are trying to make Caltex a place of destination," he said.

Farmers go into direct selling

Text & photos by Teresita Crespo
PEP General Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—TEN months since farmers in Candaba, Pampanga, ventured into the direct selling of their produce, growers from other areas have started trying the concept.

On May 12, farmers from Benguet and Ifugao joined for the first time their Candaba counterparts in the "Farm Fresh 21."

At an old warehouse fronting the Department of Foreign Affairs office in Clark, the Marketing Cooperative of Benguet Farmers (MCBF) sold at least 1,000 kilograms of assorted vegetables, according to its chair, Herman Ampaguey.

The Ifugao Mountain Agricultural Terminal (IMAT) delivered its first bulk order of 120 kg of assorted vegetables to the Cybercity's canteen and workers, said Ronald Hernandez, the group's vice president.

Three hours after the fair opened, MCBF sold 300 kg to shoppers, mostly workers, families of Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and Clark visitors.

"Our selling rate is good," Ampaguey said as he assessed the reactions of buyers.

Fresh, cheap produce

Like the Candaba farmers, those Northern Luzon growers braved rainstorms through very modest rented frames. Freshness of the produce and lower prices.

The suppliers came on night from the farms, expecting freshness of the goods, and were told as much lower prices because hauling costs were much lower and no vendors' markup were added.

Ampaguey said MCBF, the marketing arm of the Benguet Farmers Federation (BFF), joined the fair on the invitation of Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo to La Trinidad (Benguet) Mayor Nestor Fongwan, president of the Benguet Mayors' League.

BFF counts as members some 50,000 vegetables growers from the province's 13 towns and Baguio City, Fongwan said.

Ampaguey said their participation in the fair was "not a one-shot deal but a continuous one."

His reason? To make Benguet-grown vegetables affordable to many which, he said, was an approach to meeting the demand in the market, and sustaining the agricultural season.

Like what Candaba farmers had done, Ampaguey and Hernandez hoped that the fair would eventually link their groups with bulk buyers like hotels and restaurants.

Pelayo told Clark residents are, by themselves, a big market to cap. In this former US military base-turned economic zone, they count 30,000 to almost 400 companies.

Ampaguey said bringing the produce straight to where the buyers were was a good way to deal with the adverse impact of globalization or the opening up of the local market to cheaper foreign products.

Marketing vehicle

"We're Fresh 21," their marketing vehicle, is now held every Friday from late-one-a-month in July to September 2005.

Pelayo said he picked up the idea from the "Hiraisong Bilihgin (Candy) market" concept of former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

However, from Candaba's 33 villages are preparing to export at least 20 percent of the town's vegetables and fish.

A marketing caravan to Singapore is slated to check the deal, it was learned.

Candaba grows the traditional vegetables like squash, bitter gourd and beans. It also cultivates watermelon, honeydew, rose and papaya.

FRESH and good-priced vegetables from Benguet are sold straight to buyers in Clark through the Farm Fresh 21, a direct-selling project by Candaba farmers.

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Drug industry
From page B4

Wild LEMON storing his ES Lilly days

pave its discussions to find ways to bring down the cost of medicine by submitting position papers or making presentations to executive and groups, including the academe and especially the Department of Health.

Pfizenmer takes extra effort to update himself on the many global developments that have an impact on the pharmaceutical industry, such as the outbreak of SARS and avian flu, to see how local firms could address issues long before they become really serious problems.

That means reading a lot of material and occasionally going abroad for conferences with other drug executives.

Pfizenmer says he still keeps a busy schedule, but he wouldn't not have wanted it any other way.

He says he can still go on at 75 years old because he "loved hearing that."

It has been fun from the time the twin-engine Beech started working at the Swiss firm Inc., the first drug store with a smoking area, as chemical manager at 26 years old.

During his nine years there, his degrees in Chemistry from Adamson University and Business Administration from the University of the East were put to good use.

From there he moved to U.S. Dadlig as division manager and then to Eli Lilly in 1969, his last post before he headed PHAP.

Pfizenmer says his schedule at PHAP is not much different, although he is free to admit that he is no longer a spring chicken, so he limits his drinks to just a glass of wine or two down at midday.

"You longer drink like a fish," Pfizenmer says with a laugh.

He comes to the office at 9 in the morning and leaves at 4 p.m., but no longer every day. Other days, he plays a round of golf or just—he takes time out to be with wife, Iris with of over 50 years, at least one of his seven children, or his 13 grandchildren.

Pfizenmer says his family has been telling him to take things even easier, especially after he was almost done by a severe operation.

"I am glad that during my last check-up, everything seems to be in place. The Lord has been really good to me," he says.

Pfizenmer considers still having a job like his as a blessing because it allows him to keep his mind active while having more than enough time to pursue his other pleasures.

He says he will recommend it to other retirees, since they still have a lot of wisdom and experience to share with others.

Pfizenmer says he does not know up to when he can keep his active PHAP.

But one thing's for sure, he will live life to the fullest while there is still life to live.

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Sunday BIZ

Drug industry keeps CEO going

Former Eli Lilly GM says he's far from really retiring

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN IT COMES TO DRUGS, [illegible] is an expert.

Wanamer, after all, has over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, which is invaluable in his job as chief executive officer of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines.

The 63-year-old PHAP is the biggest group of pharmaceutical firms, and its members account for nine of 10 drugs sold in the country.

He was supposed to take over the reins of PHAP for just a year or two after retiring as general manager of Eli Lilly (Philippines) Inc. in 1998, to get him and to an easier schedule after working hard at the helm of what used to be one of the biggest pharmaceutical firms in the country.

The one or two years turned into 20 years and counting, and Wanamer says the work pressure has not let up.

That's just the way he likes it.

"I really have nothing better to do and at least here, I am among friends and colleagues, many of whom are much younger than I am," Wanamer says.

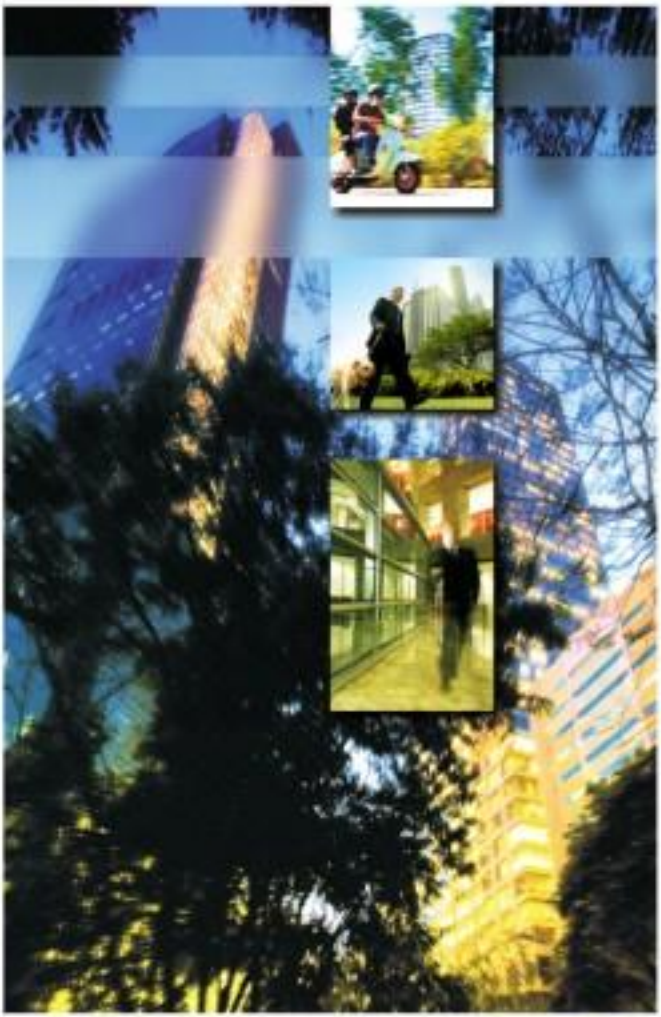
As head of PHAP, Wanamer spends a lot of time in deep conversation with the heads of the multinational drug companies regarding issues facing the industry, such as the proliferation of counterfeit drugs and proposed legislation that could have an impact on their operations.

Wanamer also spends time talking to government officials, legislators and other groups with whom the drug companies deal with.

He is especially busy when calamities strike as PHAP is usually asked to donate badly needed medicine and services to victims of natural disasters.

PHAP also actively patrol-

MARIA KO



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The new Bonifacio Global City is a community of offices and commercial spaces, civic centers and commercial districts that look as good on the asset sheet as they do on the land. With the organized re-design of this city center, each piece of property faces either a main thoroughfare or open greenery. The entire Bonifacio Global City district takes on a dramatic increase in land value.

Dedicated open spaces will be developed into a network of retail promenades, paseos and plazas. The new design deliberately sacrificed saleable land area, and kept it available to all in the form of public taxes, parks and greenery. Every amenity and convenience including green spaces will be provided to instill pride in the workplace and enhance the quality of life. Bonifacio Global City is an investment envisioned to be appreciated... and to appreciate... for years to come.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

TWO for the road

Color Chola Bansil Permsan

Doggone fashion

They strut their stuff on an alien territory—the catwalk

EDITOR'S

Text by Alex T. Vargas
Photos by Bren Sarmiento

IN MANY OF OUR FASHION coverages, there have been quite a number of times when the collections nearly went to the dogs. This time they literally did.

Not a few star-worshipping tourists had to stop and stare as Boracay's dating dog lovers recently walked down the Red Carpet with their toy dogs—from pugs to poodles, Pekingese to Shih Tzus, beagles to miniature—dressed in the latest pooch outfits and accessories by D'Couture.

Buddy, a mini pinscher, marched in a waxy-chromatic, white fur fellow mini pinscher, strapless, pawsed in a striped blue tee.

Not a few, like poodle Akimi, were dressing in a two-piece floral-printed bikini. Alas, her mistress, who probably took her cue from Paris Hilton, unwittingly ruined the dog's beach-babe look by dressing Akimi in leather booties.

Shih Tzus Wubbu and Khuba paraded in blue and pink tees, respectively, while a family of mini pinchers composed of Picci, Kiki, Pelpek and Pliny swaggered either in tiered terse or Hawaiian shirts.

Picci even did something "Hanson" like clambered on one of her owners' legs and banged it that brought the crowd, composed mostly of children, to witches. If kids say the darndest, then dogs do the darndest.

Bonnil, a mixed beagle in a red gabba attire, experienced cold jones, so, lest and refused to budge an inch. Instead of dragging the poor dog, her quick-thinking owner carried her all the way.

Not all models were toy dogs, mind you, as

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RUFUS as a man Dama

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A WALK in the park

μ700

μ720 SW

μ810

Tough Olympian lens

By Anne R. Jumbora

ON THE GROUND OR below the sea, nighttime or daytime, lifestyle photography is made even more versatile to anyone who can point-and-shoot. With digital imaging going as high as 8.0 million pixel resolution, a fantastic memorable snapshot blown up to 12R size is just a click away. Heck, one can even hold enough to go for 30Bts.

Don't be fooled by its diminutive appearance, though. The next-generation μ (mju) digital cameras by Olympus are tough babies designed to endure rough handling and extreme weather conditions.

"The cameras are designed for the very active and outdoor type of people but it meets the requirements of anybody. The new features simply mean more opportunity for end-users to enjoy life," said Shinichiro Tanabe, Olympus regional business manager for Asia and Middle East business group.

Encased in all-weather inch metal body, the μ line records images and home movies just as well under the rain or watery environment as it would on a sunny day. Take it on the beach, on a skiing trip or rugged captivating expeditions. The handy μ guarantees to capture memories in high-definition, open-close precision.

A heavy-duty imaging gadget is the μ 720SW. Its lens unit is protected by shock-absorbing material, with a shockproof electric circuit board structure that can withstand a

The next-generation Olympus cameras are small but strong

five-foot drop. No need to panic during an accidental drop while scaling the mountains, for instance, as long as it's not over five feet. The unit has dust-proof capability, and the rapid exterior zoom is an optimum performance for up to 1M feet underwater, eliminating the need for underwater case. Underwater settings are either wide, macro or plain snapshot.

Quick response

The μ 720SW features 7.1 megapixels, 3x optical zoom lens, 3.5-inch 230,000 pixels LCD, TruePic Turbo Image Processor for quick camera response that ensures image-quality. Bright Capture Technology for brighter photos in dark conditions or shooting under available light. High-sensitivity settings can be adjusted up to ISO 3,200 to create natural-looking images into the bright glare of the flash. It comes in silver, blue and bronze colors.

Boasting of 8.0 megapixel capabilities is the μ 810, with durable weatherproof body for brilliant imaging results in any kind of weather. A notable feature is the Digital Image Stabilization felt that gets rid of the blur, incorporating true gyro-sensors to detect and record vibrations that occur when taking pictures, a blurry image can be conserved at the push of a button. Extreme blur and those taken at a shutter speed slower than 1/8th of a second, however, may not be corrected.

The image stabilization also prevents image blur during camera shake occurred in low-light conditions and subject blur when recording stills of fast-moving scenes by setting the camera to higher sensitivity setting and shutter speeds. In the Bright Capture mode, ISO can be set up to 3,200. A High-Precision CCD enables the camera to record images in vivid detail. It has 3x optical zoom and 2.5-inch LCD.

The last member of the μ family is a 700, available in silver, black, orange and blue, it has 7.1 megapixels encased in all-weather body, 3x optical zoom and 2.5-inch LCD. The Bright Capture Technology guarantees first-billion picture, with high-sensitivity settings up to ISO 2,500. It also features High-Precision CCD and TruePic Turbo Image Processor.

The μ line has multi-purpose shooting functions, including exposure compensation and multi-pic Bulb modes, scene program modes, super macro mode, movie recording (with sound). Scene program modes include portrait, landscape, landscape plus portrait, night scene, night scene plus portrait, sports, indoor, candle, self-portrait, available light portrait, sunset, fireworks, museum, cuisine, behind glass, documents, beach and snow. If tinkering and experimenting isn't your thing, you can use the program in their mode.

"We are confident our new models will be competitive enough for the local market. We will be noticed this time as one of the leaders in waterproof and digital imaging," Tanabe said.

E-mail the author at ajumbora@inquirer.com.ph

IN TOO DEEP This heavy-duty camera is just the right gadget for that adventure trip—slim enough to slip into your pocket and tough enough to handle rough environments.

LIZ Marble and Akira

ADAM/PH Lexis and Bubu

SUSAN Maura and Sumi

STEPHEN Zaki and Ara Segarra with Colin

Doggone fashion

PINOY Seven Eric Kim and Frisbee champ Jay

Frances Gil

a chocolate brown Labrador pup returned his stuff on a red and gold Cinema costume. Two-month-old Bebe is a "feeling" (pun) dog, and handler Rosalyn Lazo.

The late afternoon affair began as early as noon, as participating dogs underwent a bit of pampering and grooming hours prior at Petspace. By the end of the beauty session, not a few female dogs were dolled up with bra-pink ponytails.

Frisbee Labradors

The fashion show served as a boon act to the main event, a Frisbee contest featuring the smart pooch's hefty Labrador retrievers. Both events were sponsored by Alpo and hosted by model-actress Isabelle Daza and TV personalities Iza Calzado and Maverick.

Aside from two in-house vets monitoring the dogs' condition, the back-to-back shows were closely guarded by Bureau of Animal Industry-Welfare Division (BAI-CIC) Angel Alimon and Philippine Canine Club president Bobby Santos.

Nestlé Graduates of Parties (Apo) officials led by Junior Tay, Carol Aldeña, Angela Operana and Dr. Yuri Bardon were also present.

Master spoiler Isabella on manual wielded and controlled pet owners to observe the five basic natural rights: freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from physical discomfort and pain; freedom from injury and disease; freedom to conform to essential behavior patterns; and freedom from fear and distress.

"If it's a normal animal, then you have to provide it with the right environment," he said. "Putting a caged predator beside a caged prey, for example, will instill fear on the latter and frustrate the former. Both animals will, then, be subject to undue stress."

Becoming dress-up pets per se occasionally, he added, but this must be done within the proper "context." Since the practice of dressing up animals originated in wild, archaeological contexts, certain articles of clothing may not be suitable for big and extremely hairy dogs who have found dens-ses in the Philippines.

"Be sure that the clothes you buy are not too tight or too frilly as to hurt the dog or cause him or her allergies," he said. "I don't think it's wise to dress up your pets 24/7. In the first place, it's unusual for them to run around serious clothes!"

As many as 93 dogs took part in the Alpo Dog Frisbee Challenge, which showcased not only the contestants' catching prowess, but the invisible bond they share with their owners.

Ady, a Labrador owned by former-expat Eric Kim, won the top prize. Landing second was Isagani, a black Labrador owned by Joani Ochoa, followed by Bambi, owned by Susan Rivera.

Crowd favorite and last year's champion, Pining, a Labrador belonging to Hey Jude! team member Jude Lee, bagged the Favorite Pet Award.

Some three dogs bestowed with

AMANDA Griffin

PHOTO Hyber with Pinoy, Kim, Pelgado and Pilo

FRISBEE CHALLENGE

PUSONG Alpo executives (from left) Angela Operana, Junior Tay, Hector Ponce, M. Douglas Bautista, Arvin Pacaigue, Tet Bautista and Carol Aldeña

PINEY Santos

DR. JANICEL Mateo

energy and jumped with considerable speed and form, it would be great to see a caped crusaders as in Superman next year as he tries in daily gravity in his pursuit of a flying Frisbee.

Apart from trophies and cash prizes, winners received Alpo products and gift packs. Indeed, these loyal dogs deserve every treat that comes their way considering the trouble they go through to please their masters.

E-mail the author at ssanpet@inquirer.com.ph

SUNDAY
MAY 21, 2006

LINLIKE other schools, Montessori adapts to the child.

School teaches tots 'life skills'

THE LEARNING GARDEN MONTESSORI School (LGMS) in BF Homes, Paranaque applies the Montessori education system, which develops not only a student's mental ability but also life skills such as creativity, initiative and discipline.

Julie Jean de Guzman Zacharas, director of the school, has a master's degree in Psychology and attended a Montessori training at Simmons, Canada.

Unlike schools where students are forced to adapt to the curriculum, Montessori adapts to the child, Zacharas said. Students learn at their own pace in an environment designed just for them.

"The great thing about this setup is that we are not only teaching them to be good in academics but more importantly, develop life skills like problem solving, courtesy to self to persons," Zacharas explained. "It is something that can be useful when they grow up. It's more like education for life."

"The advantage of the Montessori approach is that it provides student with high aptitude more challenges and advanced presentations," she added.

"Likewise, those who take a little bit time to absorb lessons are given extra work to meet their requirements and are not compelled to go on advanced lessons that he or she is not ready for. The Montessori way is to teach according to a student's natural capacity/ability."

LGMS also offers Casa, a program designed for a mixed class. This is said to help students of different age levels to develop concentration, order and love for work at the same time encourage interaction and socialization. Activities include personal life exercises, sensorial materials, language areas, sciences and mathematics. Learning Garden Montessori School is at 264 Sgt. Esguerra Ave., Phase III, BF Homes, Paranaque. Call 8256884 or 826 0599.

STUDENTS ARE taught not only to be good in academics but, more importantly, to develop life skills.

A new twist of gata-nomic proportions!

You may not realize it, but there are probably 1001 ways by which you can prepare gata dishes – from breakfast to dinner, from appetizer to dessert, or from soups to beverages. All you need is a twist of your imagination, and presto! An eternity of mouth-watering dishes.

Gata is so versatile you can have it in any way your appetite dictates. If you love hot dishes, you'll definitely enjoy the way gata neutralizes the bite of chili in Bicol Express. On the other hand, if you have a sensitive tongue that prefers the ticklish taste, try Pagsanjan's sinigang sa kandule for its gata-enriched texture. And if you think you know your dinuguan, wait till you get a taste of Quezon's own version, which they prepare with the right amount of gata for that extra tangy surprise.

Yes, Filipinos all over the country have long had this love affair with gata. But anyone who's ever tried extracting gata from a fresh coconut will know: it's not that easy.

That's why Carnation, your favorite cooking milk, now brings you this piece of delicious news. You can now have your favorite gata dish as often as you wish with new CARNATION COCO EVAP! It combines the richness of Carnation Evap and the natural taste of coconut milk. It even comes with easy-open tabs so you can readily pour it into any dish.

So embark on that gastronomic gata adventure! Try it on your favorite gata recipe, or whip up an original to perk up your weekly menu. On pastol! On dessert! Aahhh, you can only imagine what more you can do with Carnation Coco Evap!

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Lighting the way worldwide

PHILIPS, THE WORLD'S LARGEST lighting manufacturer, with more than 1,400 first-to-market lamps produced every year, continues to set the pace in the lighting industry as the first-choice innovative partner for retailers and cost-effective lighting solutions.

For the past five years, Philips Lighting Solutions has been greeting the new year with a big bang as its Philippine Brilliant Control bathes Light the Seasons Here That's How Bull shows the Times Square in New York. Last year, Philips lit the New Year's Eve Ball with solid-state or LEDs, part of the growing solid-state lighting category that is set to revolutionize the lighting industry with drastic reductions in electricity consumption and costs.

Philips lighting products are widely used not just in homes but also in many professional applications such as 30 percent of offices, 80 percent of the world's top airports, 30 percent of hospitals, 35 percent of zoos and 55 percent of the world's most famous football stadiums.

One reason for Philips' leadership position in the global lighting industry market is its ability to create revolutionary products that achieve new levels in lighting quality and performance. Once such example is the energy-saving lighting project has done for the 2006 birth anniversary of the Bhakra Family (a Sikh religion) in India. Philips incorporated street lighting, temple lighting, fort lighting and a sound-and-light show using a combination of floodlights and fiber optic lighting systems. The marvel of light won the prestigious Illuminating Engineering Society of North America award.

Locally, Philips has transformed The Promenade in Greenhills shopping complex into a landmark where city people and light come together.

At the 22nd Asian Games in November last year, Philips also provided the complete lighting systems for the Main Aquatic Center in Los Batos, Laguna, the Games' venue for the swimming competitions. And the company also provides lighting to a number of high-end shops in Metro Manila as well as all showrooms of Toyota.

THE PROMENADE in Greenhills, lit by Philips

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*Suggested retail price

Luxury lamps enhance furniture displays

THE CONTEMPORARY LIGHTING SOLUTIONS by the Italian brand Penta have illuminated homes, hotels, restaurants and ships all over the world. In the Philippines, Penta's unique design sensibility lit up the luxurious displays of Furnitalia.

The country's exclusive distributor of upscale Italian brands in the furnishing sector has a new sprawling location at The Fort. It has three full rooms of furniture showcases, enhanced by Penta's striking floor, wall and table lamps.

Guided by its key elements of tradition, elegance and essential design, Penta focuses on matching different materials, integrating metal, wood, blown glass and fabric into light sculptures.

Penta president Gabriele Rinaldi was recently in the country to visit the lifestyle store.

"Penta lamps have an elegant quality to them that can enhance lavish spaces as subtle plain ones. From the simple to the sweet, their products are stamped with good quality and ingenious design sense," Florence Ho, Furnitalia managing director said.

Visit Furnitalia at 30th St. and Third Drive, Corporate Park, West Bonifacio Global City. Call 810 1607.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

One mall chain, four fashion aces

SM Mall of Asia's opening is also a milestone of sorts for designers Cesar Gaupo, Lulu Tan Gan, Efren Ocampo and Mike dela Rosa

By Alex F. Vergara

THE COUNtry's leading mall chain, which began as a small shoe store on Carriedo Street in Manila nearly five decades ago, has come a long way with SM Mall of Asia's formal opening yesterday.

With a total floor area of 400,000 sq m, the mall, which sits on a 60-hectare reclaimed property along the scenic Manila Bay area in Pasay City, is the biggest of its kind in the country, if not in Southeast Asia.

Apart from regular attractions also present in SM's other properties, the new mall boasts of such exclusive crowd-pleasers as a 600-seat IMAX theater (with the biggest screen of its kind in the world at 23,395 square), 150 or so indoor and outdoor dining outlets, and an Olympic-size ice-skating rink.

Of course, as the heart of every SM mall is its anchor department store. Over the decades, these department stores have introduced a fair mix of stylish as well as affordable high-street fashion to the metro masses. In keeping with its location, the theme of SM's newest department store is inspired by water in its various forms.

Steady growth

In many ways, SM's steady growth mirrors the careers of four of the country's top fashion designers. Cesar Gaupo and Lulu Tan Gan started their careers as two of SM's in-house designers (designing shoes in the 1970s), while Efren Ocampo and Mike dela Rosa were among the first batch of talents the then department store tapped in the early 1990s to lend top offerings to its Department Square.

Ocampo cites his stay [illegible]'s dutch in 1983 as a catalyst that helped his entry in SM. His trade-savvy fashion expertise [illegible] proving him to look for more viable options.

"SM has been very supportive to our ideas," says Ocampo. "In a whole, I have very little reason to complain."

Dela Rosa joined SM in 1981 via search for designers who [illegible] the former's

These designers' staying power is proof perhaps of their creativity and the market instincts they honed while working at SM

TAM GAN'S yellow knitted quarter-sleeved top

One mall c

ON HER...JM Escalona's turquoise sequin-cut sleeveless dress with cutouts and pompom sheaths; on him, a patterned sleeveless plaid jacket; jeans with matching flat-front pants worn over a bright pink sweatshirt with a convertible collar long-sleeved shirt. Shown in the background are Mall of Asia's Central block, South block and iconic globe.

MIKE dela Rosa's V-necked chiffon bubble dress with matching bag; sleeved drop. Photos show mall's landscaping area for al fresco dining.

DELA Rosa's bl... dress with belt b... Asia's landscaped

ANTHONY Navarro's blue-black two-button single-breasted jacket worn over a cream and gold stretch shirt with striped tie and a dark blue stretch flat-front pants

YELLOW GOLD chiffon spaghetti-strapped layered dress by Rhea Ocampo

NOCOM'S dark-brown two-button single-breasted jacket with matching flat-front slim pants worn with a printed shirt and striped tie

chain, four fashion aces

...dramatic hair eyelet wrap ...w. Photo shows Mall of ...overlooking Manila Bay

DELA Rosa's sleeveless chiffon bubble dress with matching fabric-style shrug with cord details. Shown (opposite) in the mall's glass corridor.

NOCOM'S black sleeveless body jacket worn over a black long-sleeved shirt and checkered fabrics tie and a black-gray pinstriped tie-neck low-rise pants

OCAMPO'S coral-beaded spaghetti-strapped fishtail gown

...ing for a new approach to ...ces dubbed as the country's ...ions. "There's more to Cebu ...than the predictable pieces ...ns and Bangkok. Until I find ...ng my exposure to Makati." ...the years, IM has become a ...ofile designers with cultural as ...d ethnic pieces (worn by ...). Isla ...ng what opportunity as he ta...

...ntations, his Blanco y Negro or black-and-white line-ups Mall of Asia.

"If these clothes in Isla design do well there, I will take it as a cue to introduce more edgy pieces and elevate my entire space to black-and-white pieces," says Dela Rosa.

The collection consists of printed chiffon dresses, cotton separates and eyelet blouses. Although his trial dresses (in their descriptions) implies loose loose silhouettes, they come with corset to provide wearers more options. It's it-as-his way of slowly weaning Filipino women from the overexposed strapless silhouette toward the belted look.

"The belted look may be the rage abroad," says Dela Rosa, "but it has yet to catch on in the Philippines."

Soft pieces

Ocampo, on the other hand, is keeping everything soft and close to the chest with a selection of empire-cut chiffon dresses, from bright to neutral colors. A number of pieces come with hints of beadwork or draping. His clients, he says, can't seem to get enough of the silhouette.

"Empire dresses," he says, "flatter the woman's figure and relieve her of the constant pressure to lose weight."

Because of its location and orchestration, Mall of Asia is a perennial magnet for locals as well as foreign tourists, as such, Tee has her clients in mind. Inspiration from resort wear with a collection consisting of basic tops, bubble dresses, skirts and culottes in various greens, blues and earth tones.

"The future is bright for Mall of Asia," she says. "There's not only building it still, but a city that's bound to attract tourists. We all could use a resort in the city. With advances in technology, they can perhaps clean the water and turn part of the bay into a beach resort."

Indeed, the potential such a scenario holds for pushing the local RTW business beyond Philippine shores is serious enough to keep the four designers excited and people behind the Mitsuoli chain on their toes.

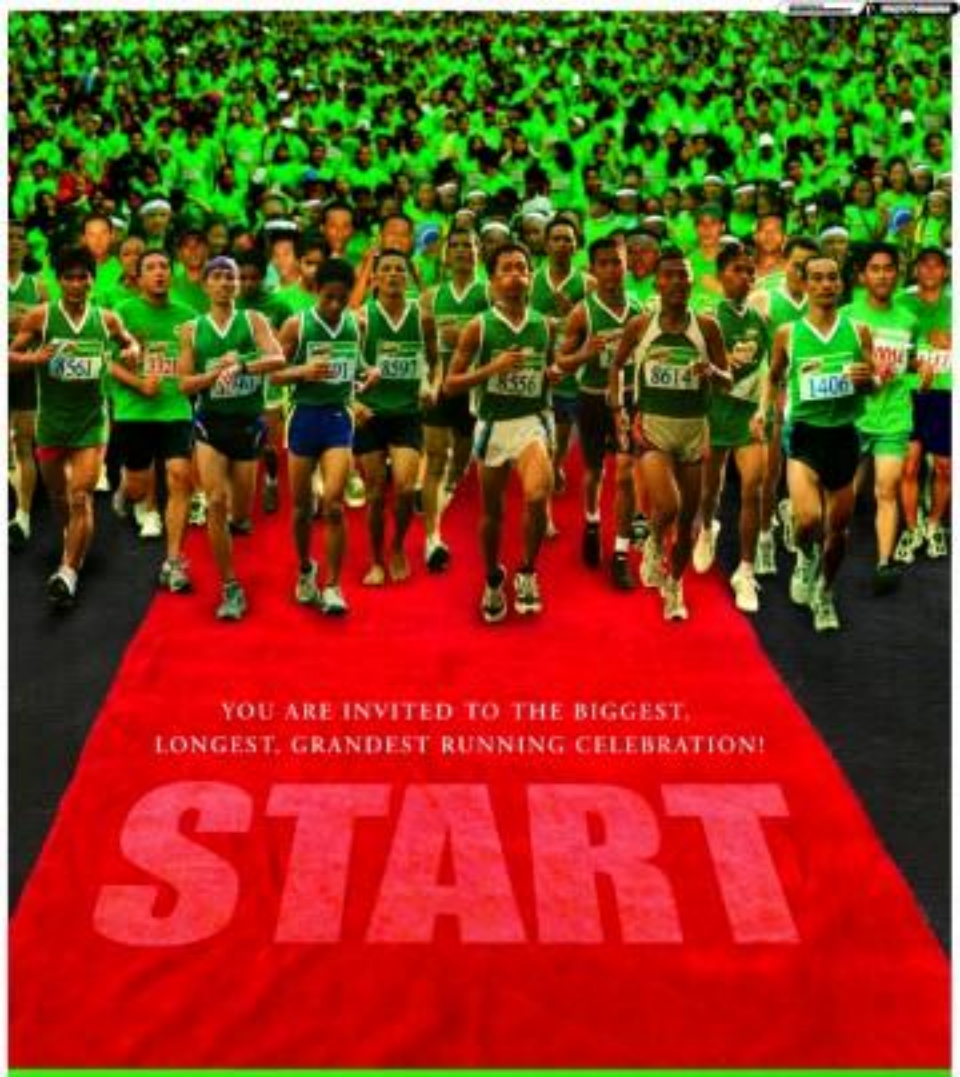
E-mail the author at newsgate@inquirer.com.ph

BLACK spaghetti-strapped dress-and-jacket by Ocampo. Shown in photo (on white pillars forming part of the mall's main drop-off area).

TAN GAN'S halter-style bubble dress with satin and gold gilt. Shown in photo is the mall's bridgeway connecting the Conservatory and the Seaside Wing.

TAN GAN'S sequin-cut bubble dress with bike and gold gilt worn with bike shrug

OCAMPO'S fuchsia dress with stretch-leather accents



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START

AREA	RACE DATE	CONTACT PERSON
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Tagbilaran City	February 1, 2009	
Batangas City	February 1, 2009	
Cotabato City	February 1, 2009	
Puerto Princesa	February 22, 2009	
Cavite City	March 1, 2009	
Cavite City	June 21, 2009	
General Santos City	July 1, 2009	
Davao City	July 5, 2009	
Metro Manila	July 19, 2009	
Bacolod City	July 22, 2009	
Cebu City	July 26, 2009	
Iligan City	August 9, 2009	
Olongapo City/ Subic	August 13, 2009	
Legaspi City	August 30, 2009	
Cebu City	August 30, 2009	
Baguio City	September 6, 2009	

AREA	RACE DATE	CONTACT PERSON
Iloilo City	September 13, 2009	
Cagayan de Oro City	September 27, 2009	
Iloilo City	September 27, 2009	
Legaspi City	October 4, 2009	
Zamboanga City	October 9, 2009	
Pagadian City	October 18, 2009	
Tacloban City	October 25, 2009	
San Fernando La Union	October 25, 2009	
Iligan City	November 1, 2009	
Dumaguete City	November 15, 2009	
Cotabato City	November 22, 2009	
Zamboanga Sibugay	November 29, 2009	
Metro Manila	December 13, 2009	

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NATIONAL MILO 30th MARATHON

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Berling, Chayong and Ute

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando
Contributor

IT WAS IN BAPTISM DURING THE SPANISH period that the saints came marching in. The calendar listed Cedulio names for every day of the year and one had no choice but to accept the holy meal of one's birthday.

Today we may consider names like Constancia and Estipula and their nicknames Candoy and Tikoy unbearable, but if those guys were alive today wouldn't they probably have the same thought about Chenelyn and Bonnielyn?

Because we have Spanish names and surnames, we are frequently mistaken by foreigners as Spanish-speaking. Actually, Hispanics and Salvador may speak not a word of Español. And their nicknames are exactly under local influence.

What was by-in-folklore could probably apply to names. The oldest or most popular derivation, the most recognized is Juan. For Juan is to "The Monkey and the Turtle" and "Mang Alibangbang." For nicknames it must be Maria. There are Iyang, Angge, Mare**, Marang, Maya, Mayang, Marle, Marlo, Marisa, Mirsia, Marlisa, Minlan, Marlena, Marlene, Marina, Mari to burger to make version, Marie. This does not even count the aggregates—Marilou, Maribel, Marivel, Merielyn—which are endless.

Another runaway favorite is, of course, Jose—with Ute, Joseling, Joselito, Pepe, Peping, Pepito, Pitoy, Pitong, Pete, Ate, Joseph, Josefino, Josy, Joel and Jojo as distinctions. Other Jose runners are Francisco: Jobo, Paco, Paquito, Viking, Tiko**, Vilroy, Kiboy, Boko, Kokoy, Frank, Franco, Frankie, Francisco.

Then Juan Crawling, Juanito, Jo, Nito, Nonoy, Juancho, Juanchito, John, Johnny, Jon-Jon and, for girls, Kenny. Through the years, saints' names remained constant although nicknames evolved with the times.

Old nicknames were often longer than the

Berling, Chayong and Ute

From page F1

names themselves. The last letter was replaced with "ng" so as to creating, frequently, Quezoning and Arroyoing. Or the addition was "bo" or "bit" as in Quiabo, Manalac, Ignacio and Castrovejo.

Short nicknames came about by extracting two syllables from the first name and adding an "o" to it, for instance: Tome"" (To-me"") for Antonio, Bonn"" for Sebastian, Tabs"" (Tab"") for Catalino and Ado"" for Jo-lanus.

Adding a "y" is another old way of producing a pet name such as Aileen Bendon Andrey, Glory Wenie and Baking. Which is also how the Filipinos got its nickname Pinay and Pinoy, the manlike Tarzy and Tiny. The Americanos got to be Cano"". And doesn't the diminutive of a diminutive make Pinay-gay and Chinggay, Bingguy and Linggoy sound even more personal?

Nicknames, linguists or hypocoristics went here from a name reserved for a second child, down to set quite, prompting name like Bea Jr.

What works in folklore could probably apply to names. The older or more popular the story, the more versions it has

A sampler of old names and nicknames

Warning: The number of nicknames you can admit to in the 21st century may reveal your age.

A

Abat / Abatin
Abo, Aida / Aidoy
Adong / Dadoy
Aging / Mingoy
Aguila / Lamberto
Aida"" / Pablo Andrada
Aning / Anne
Aning, Constancia Esperanza
Aning, Lucky / Alejandro, Fernando
Angge"" / Ria
Aning / Ana
Apie / Emelia
Apo"" / Agapito
Aro, Rosa / Asuncion

B

Balong, Balaong / Salvador
Bally"" / Balbolino
Baning, Baling, Bailey Day / Salvador
Baning / Crescent
Baning / Olivia
Bao Bi"", Baoching, Bachi"" / Salvador
Baring / Roberto
Baring, Rodolfo / Leonardo
Batuo / Servando
Batay / Isabel
Bawang, Bamboy / Benito
Baning / Bella, Felicisima
Baling / Virgilio
Baning / Diane to Baldovinos
Baring / (Sharlyn) Norberto, Alberto, Southside)
Baloog / Alberto
Baling, Baloang / Isabel
Biday / Gregory
Bing / Veronica
Bayang Inyang / Virginia
Bito"" / Antonio
Bitoy / Roberto
Bonying Boying / Antonio, Antonio

C

Cadio / Arcadio
Cafe"" / Cafe
Caloy Calling / Carlos
Canaleng Cardo"" / Candelario
Caning / Encarnacion
Cara Carol"" / Zarraga
Carino"" / Carlino
Carling / Marcelo
Carling / Cecilia Celia
Chabang / Isabel
Chaning / Francisca
Chaning / Marciana
Chayong / Rosario
Chedang Cheding, Chedau, Eding /

D

Dadoy / Eduardo
Dalay / Dalisay / Dalia
Dalong / Dalisay / Dalia
Dalong / Dalisay / Dalia
Dalong

HI MAGAZINE'S maiden issue

Gateway to mall pleasures

By Scott Jason H. Rosas
PhilStar

GATEWAY BOWLEVARD HI MAGAZINE, a virtual map to good food and shopping finds in QC's premiere mall.

The magazine was launched with good food, guests from the wellness and shopping industries, and a magician at the fashionable Penthouse on Gateway Center.

Jessy Arcanta, chair of Arcanta Group of Companies was there to welcome the guests. Reclaiming Pilipinas 2005 winner and Century Tuna Super Bod winner Jun Michida also graced the event. The magazine's publisher, Noreen Ho, and Binibining Pilipinas-Universe Liz Andrea Ramos did the hosting job for the night.

In Magazine aims to promote a hip and healthy urban lifestyle for Gateway's patrons with pages highlighting products and services that only the mall can offer. For its maiden issue, Kristine Tiamzon Lafuente is the cover girl, clad in a hot swimwear. Inside are features on Gateway's latest offerings in food and fashion, the mall's current fitness craze Bikram Yoga, BWB's mud mess Wok Ruby and more.

Photographers Tina Ramirez, Wimi Hontiveros and Xander Angeles provide the pictures, while Palanca awardee Ponchito Medrano leads the editorial team.

In Magazine will be released quarterly in Araneta Center's premises for free.

GORGEOUS Pilipinas-Universe Liz Andrea Ramos and Binibining Pilipinas International Emelie Lee Valmonte with interior top fashion celebrities at the launch.

Flores de Maria fest

MA. THERESA ALMENDRALA, daughter of engineer and Mr Bernard Almendrala, is this year's formosa mayor of Flores de Maria on May 28, in San Pedro Apostol Parish in Laguna. Lawyer José Alvarez Jr. is the formosa mayor.

Since 1954, the annual celebration of Flo-

MA. THERESA Almendrala

res de Maria is a month-long thanksgiving for all the blessings of Blessed Mary.

Physical arrangement for the festivities is under Rosendo "Nono" Rodriguez.

The fun-loving mayor, a student of the Scholastica's College taking up El Nortismo and Literatura, will a resa primera ostgown by Eddie Builders with bubble sleeves, French lace and Thai silk embellished with crystal and glass beads.

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FILINVEST
EAST COAST

The unfinished, the found and the overlooked are 'Rachified'

DYED bright red, palm fronds look like exotic blooms.

The show shines the spotlight on indigenous Filipino pieces—many refreshingly new, others too common that they are overlooked and some simply ignored because people do not know what to do with them

STYLIST Rachy Cuna and Retail Sales/Commercial manager Christian Perales

A 'BALL chair' (in case drawn off in best advantage large colorful)blooms made of capiz in "Pamumulaklak."

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

EVEN PEOPLE NOT EXACTLY enamored with artificial flowers will likely be charmed by Rachy Cuna's installations at the lobby of the InterContinental Manila ongoing until the end of the month.

"Rachified: Unfinishing by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" is one of the events organized in connection with the observance of the Filipino Heritage Month, organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Filipino Heritage Festival, Inc. It is also a celebration of the traditional May flowers festival.

The show shines the spotlight on indigenous Filipino pieces, many refreshingly new, others too common that they are overlooked, and some simply ignored because people do not know what to do with them.

But in Cuna's creative hands, the existing and matching, harmony and contrast of disparate pieces manifest in pieces that are colorful, dramatic, unusual, whimsical but always pleasing to the eye.

Colored capiz "blooms" shimmer; clumps of golden rice stalks glitter; and tiny, pearly white shells dazzle like fragile antiquarian finds.

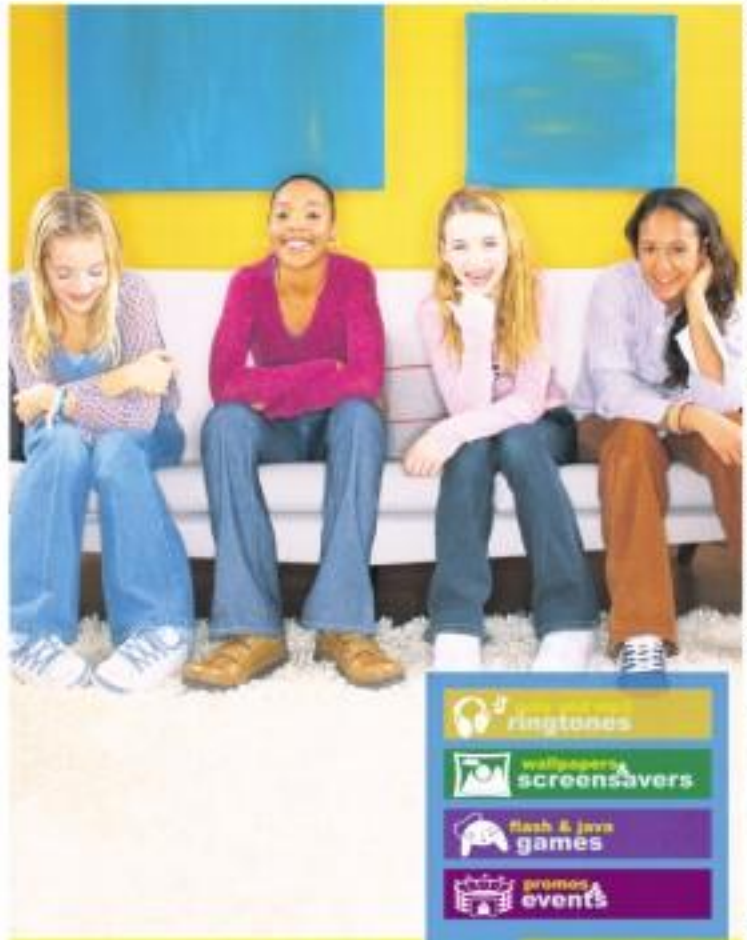
Cuna put together an eclectic collection that allows everything to be seen in a new light – unfinished medium like, dried leaves, grasses and twigs; natural bulbs; palm fronds; swathes of seaweed and stripe of abaca; commonplace baskets and planters.

As is his wont, Cuna uses the show to introduce his audience to the many possibilities, the many creative uses of things "native" to the Philippines' 7,100 islands.

While "Rachified" is primarily intended to showcase Cuna's artistry and versatility, it is also appropriate for audiences to see just how much creative and innovative work is being done by Filipino craftspeople and artisans. Cuna borrowed from friends, trend-setters in Filipino handicraft design and workmanship and successful exporters, some of the main pieces, succulents and accents, making the show a mini-display of Philippine art and crafts.

"HANG ALAY" pays tribute to bountiful harvest with its baskets, bunches of palay stalks and kalo'or rice god.

BALLS made of indigenous vines, dried twigs and leaves create a different whole in "Bolilot."



Sunday LIFESTYLE

Tessa Lyn Sevilla de Cruz
Editor Cheche Bascal Formoso

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit name of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and your daytime number along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and are not sent to the senders.

CUERDO SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Cayetano Miko Cuerdo's parents Antonio I. and Mrs. Luisa Cuerdo celebrated recently their 25th anniversary in Holiday Inn Clark, Antonio's hometown. Reception followed at Aeries Pavilion, Mabuhi Park and Garden, Makati City. The bridal gown made by Rose Divino was of taffeta while robe shantung, with lace net veil at the back, associated with Chantilly lace with headwork at the bodice.

LAVAPIE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Cristino Lavapie and Pax Sarto will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Jun 8-25, with mass at Our Lady of the Abandoned Church, Dr. Evasa, Ma-Ati on. Reception will be at Angelus Mey, Marikina. Rose Fantini of Design Plus is wedding coordinator. The bride will wear a stylized aura terno embellished with gold headwork and Swarovski crystals by Arnel Besby.

PACUNLA-HOLGADO

Atty. Marco Nicanda, son of ex-vice/DAP Lt. Cobus Sr. and Hermenia (nee Rodrigo) Nicanda, will marry ARCE Cristina Holgado, daughter of P&P 1954, Lucenzo and the late ...ose Perlita Valdez, at 10 a.m., June 3, at St. Benedict Chapel 2, 30 Bacor City, Clark Air Base, Pampanga. Reception follows at the Officers' Club, Clark Air Base, Pampanga.

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A wedding trimmed in silver

THE EYE-CATCHING daughters of the couple (top to bottom) portray as a pioneer Rizal, embroidery Rico and Lore student Rico

By Maurice Arruedes

As when they wed 25 years ago, there was also a downpour during the renewal of vows, which they considered a blessing

SHARED with relatives 25 years of togetherness, Judges Lupus Peña and Sarah Quimson-Peña

WELL-RESPECTED sugar baron and businessman Rico Enriquez "Nelly" Lopez Peña and wife, Iloilo socialite and Rico I. Lanuza Family Operations Director, celebrated their 25th year in any together in richness and in health, in riches and poorer all death do they part. In a dazzling ceremony marking their silver wedding anniversary in the countryside last August 6 to June.

Msgr. Ernesto Delgado, who married them 25 years ago in Hacienda Asiatique in Iloilo's Negros Occidental, officiated with Fr. Emmanuelito Tarabocal and Fr. Edwin Castillo.

And like when they wed 25 years ago, there was also a heavy downpour during the renewal of their vows. The couple took it "as a blessing from God," which they have so much of today, palangga.

Judges and Sarah (it's love affair started when they met in high school) exchanged vows in Mgtr. Desiderio's chief businessman.

"It was love at first sight. I couldn't wait to let her know how I felt," the excited groom said.

The radiant bride was stunning in the gilded gown she wore in a gorgeous Filipiniana given by the one-of-a-kind Pedro Reyero, no less, who also created the bowing Tagalog of the groom and the elegant gowns of their adorable daughters—Architect Carlo Bernardino, maid of honor who is set to marry this school at Ateneo de Manila University; Rica Mirela Lozarito, bridesmaid who will begin her Legal Management studies in January, and petite, 10-year-young Rica Maria Isabel, flower girl.

The three daughters read and led the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Prayers of the Faithful, respectively.

Hosts her sponsors

After all-round, host of festivities placed Jocelyn and Cosme Maraño's adorable summer/palabas pensi to Iloilo to witness this renewal of vows. Her principal sponsors were headed by all-media brothers parishioner Alberdin Lopez and wife the former Jocelyn Gaisano on the map, two-time governor of this island, recruiting family Michelle Lopez; former Sen. Manuel B. Villar and his equally dynamic wife, Rep. Cynthia Aguilar; Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and Virginia Segovia; Governor Neil and Myrna Tupas; Gen. Reynaldo Bautista and DOST regional director Nenita Bravo; Rafael Abello and Petronila Peña-nda de Garcia; cousin-in-law Iloilo Jose Marie Chan and Governor Rafael Yap; BPI Vice president Jose pal of the groom, Imelda Montinola III, who walked to the church having just traveled from Australia via Manila, and partners Jr. Pastor Gonzales; Rhodes Arcache Jr. (a.k.a. emcee extraordinaire Mario Contreras); and many more of pal Javier José Cleto "Tito" Tenorio and wife, world-class cousin, Maria Beatriz "Bati" Perez-Tenorio T. Reyes Oscar Montilla and Linda Hokkanan; Victor Escalona and Imelda Romero; Lenore Abad Tiotuico and Atty. Ireneo Montelo Gadrinab Jr. daughter, looking fabulous for donning her's Dream gown; Enrique Montilla and his Wink Beauty Parlor beauty Ruth Tiad Jamolillo; Rosalinda Nolasco and BPI regional director Sonia Perez; Jo Ann Cardenas and Marianito Ebcrias, Jr. Manuel de Asis and Sebastian Pedrajas; Rodrigo Palomo and Hermenia de la Cruz; brilliant grandson of all seasons Col. Benjamin Salvador Florence Rodrigo Palomo and Juliet Ortanez; and couple ever-Rona Cambrera and Elmer Jonillares.

MAURICE Arruedes (as in one), in a hug-ng by Bib Coronel, with the adorable Dr. Marie Cecilia

HOPKEY Montilla and Linda Hokkkan, daughter of Cpt Sto. Panag-a-a wedding sponsor 25 years ago

Reception

Aprés the ceremony, 300 of Iloilo and Cosme Maraño's top, young, medium-board of trade Iloilo Bar, sugar barons and businessmen, as well as the young at heart and clever workers dashed to the palatial Peña Mansion at the chic upscale Ledesco Village.

Set up in the pool side of the sprawling garden was a scrumptious buffet of all-time favorites a salad bar, some beef noodles and a cheerful dessert counter were told out by the culinary star, William Espartinella, for the do-it-yourself pasels, dressed in their Filipiniana best, some of them jetting in from abroad and different parts of the Philippines, palangga.

The fun part was the laid program that included a video presentation chronicling the glitzy at once of the silver couple, a special production of the couple pals, plus the crowning and toasting from their dearest close pals and family members.

It was then followed by an awesome all-night of cooking the dance floor, while hopping and lobsterfing until the wee hours. Not even the rain could stop the Iloilo fiesta, their relentless all-night party. It was during a great time during this celebration of love, happiness and togetherness.

Well, after all chatterings, the Peñas are famous for holding some of the best parties in town! Now you know why they are fun of the get-together! Take inspection clean for it coming soon, palangga, as "people you should know Iloilo-ites."

Hey, let's raise our glasses of bubbly as they aim for the golden Bells. Cheers, palangga!

LGU Marcelita, Ding Panes-encia, Susie Escobal and the groom's close pal, BPI president Gigi Montelibano

SIR. KRISTIAN Dunbar, Jo-Boy Campos and nobleman Maribel Magdaraog

WILLIAM and Lily O'Boyle

MAGNIFIC Hosting of Yasgod and Pink Rose's parties

GROOM Ernesto Dino Peñalosa "Bobie" Lopez Peña, daughter of banker VP Fernando Lopez

CEDRICK Loring and mother Milly Loring

Shame and scandal in the neighborhood

DEAR EMILY,

My mom and dad are both in their late 80s. But they have been living separately for about eight to 10 years now.

Everything started when my mom suspected my dad of being gay and having an affair with a man.

I'm the eldest in a brood of seven. We were told about this problem by my mom from the onset. But all of us simply chose not to discuss this with my father. We give him the benefit of the doubt.

Years passed and my mother lived of so-called "the situation." And, through the years, my mom has more or less forgiven my dad.

But problems are beginning to crop up again. And they are worse this time.

Somebody called up my mother to tell her that my dad was bringing a very young boy in his house. The boy according to my dad's neighbor, often showed up at night and left early the next day.

And I'm pretty sure that news is now spreading like wildfire in my dad's place.

Now I'd like to talk to my dad about this but don't know how to go about it. I want to tell my dad about these rumors and for him to consult his doctor somewhere else, not in our neighborhood.

I love him and I respect him so much despite what he's been doing lately. I even told my mom to simply accept the situation as it is but how hard and painful it is and to accept my dad for what he really is.

But my mom is furious. She plans to tell every member of our family about my dad's secret life to get even. What can I do?

BISS

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

Somebody said my dad had a very young boy in his house

At 66, it's quite late in the day to reach an old day like you did now looks. His lifestyle has been tolerated for so long by his wife and you kids.

You've all given him the benefit of the doubt for so long and this has reinforced his devil-may-care attitude all more.

I don't think a boy hugging tongues in the neighborhood will greatly affect him. Having grown accustomed to the kind of life he's in, what is there to be squeamish about with this young lover?

But how young is young? If his paramours are below the legal age of consent, which I believe is the case the kids called in 22, then that is definitely toss-out "Bobby-ko!"

Someone should call the police and throw him in the dungeon. But if it is between consenting adults...

Some "white-sporting guardians" of society can be very much outraged. They condemn what they cannot fully understand or refuse to accept.

Their little minds produce themselves as fitters of morals and they brandish labels that hurt and insult.

If you and your siblings are 100 percent sure that your father is guilty of pedophilia, then go tell him what have absolutely immoral and obnoxious he is! But if it's just the neighbor's gossip that you're relying on, your battle cry is sure to be lost at least.

There's not have to pass judgment on your father. He is what he is and it's too late in the day to mobilize him or that. What can your mother do to discuss him further?

In your father's mind, being the person he already believes it as "normal" in society is "pseudo-normal" enough. He is it.

In a few while, the rape scenario in his body will start filling up the house to create him a real master in Loyola. Isn't life too short to be tolerating neighbors peeping through windows or gallivanting on high horses about matters not virtues?

Seek out the truth and the truth shall give you strength... Sounds familiar?

(E-mail the author at emarcelo@manila.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer Lanee to 6th Marcelo column/ program "Kabuhayan Highway," 7-11 a.m. Mon-day-Friday from or Audit Ave. Ext.)

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Grand wedding festival at Alabang mall

THE SPLENDOR OF TELethic weddings will be relived during the forthcoming "Wedding Festival" at the Festival Supermall's Carousel Court May 26-28.

The unique wedding fair will showcase both modern and traditional wedding essentials, the latest fashion trends in weddings, entertainment, floral decorations, special offers, venue setup and innovations in wedding photography. Food caterers and wedding receptions will also be featured.

The Wedding Festival seeks to help couples, soon-to-be couples and recent-tying couples prepare for their big day. It gathers under one roof the best selection of wedding planners, suppliers and services, and they will present detailed preparations of the actual wedding ceremony as well as post-wedding services. The festival will feature everything from ethnic to simple motifs and the most elegant wedding ensembles. Call 8420313, Festival Supermall is at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

WORK & FUN CAN FUSE WITH NEW MILO FUZE

Okay. So you're too busy climbing the corporate ladder to have time and energy for fun and other activities outside work. And the only sport you're engaged in is the rat race. If you go on like this, you'll soon feel burned-out and frustrated. You've got to de-stress by engaging in sports, having a hobby, or simply hanging out with friends. Don't worry about finding spare energy for these. Because now, you can manage your body's energy supply with the help of new MILO FUZE.

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New **MILO FUZE** is the fusion of the natural goodness of **MILO** with **Actigen E** and the nourishment of **High Calcium, Non-Fat Milk**. This great combination optimizes your body's release of energy so you can put more life into your work and have a life after work. What's more, you get to indulge in that great **MILO** taste and benefit from the nourishment of **High Calcium, Non-Fat Milk**.

AFTERNOON BLUES

MILO FUZE is best taken in the afternoon — the time when you experience an energy slump that leads to reduced alertness and less productivity. With sustained energy from **MILO FUZE**, you can go on mixing business with pleasure and stay on top of your profession and recreation.

AS HANDY AS YOUR MOBILE

MILO FUZE comes in easy-to-carry sachets so you can enjoy it at home, in the office, or anywhere. You can never have enough of energy at work and play, so keep a sachet in your purse, sports bag, or office drawer at all times.

New **MILO FUZE** is now available in supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Have it all.

Feast of St. Ferdinand III of Castille

THE PEOPLE OF Ilagan, Isabela begin today the nine-day novena of Masses honoring their patron saint, Ferdinand III of Castille, whose feast day falls on May 31.

Ilagan Bishop Sergio Utleg will officiate at the consecrated Mass at 9 a.m. Fr. Solly Lorca is the parish priest.

The Dominican friars led by Fr. Pedro Jimenez set up their mission in 1639 in this place and named it "San Fernando de Ilagan."

Earlier, in 1597, Fr. Antonio de Garcia built a church in the pueblo of Hallabangan in the vicinity of Pantoc de San Isabel.

The church was reportedly ransacked but still was damaged through the years. St. Ferdinand de Castille Church is now being renovated to restore it to its former glory.

Who was St. Ferdinand III of Castille?

St. Ferdinand was the son of Alfonso IX, King of Leon, and Berenguela, daughter of King Alfonso of Castille. Ferdinand became king of Castille in 1217 at age 18, then king of Leon and also of Palencia, Valladolid, and Burgos in 1230. He married Princess Beatrice, daughter of Philip of Swabia, king of Germany. The couple had seven sons and three daughters.

Following the death of Beatrice, he married Joan of Ponthieu and had two more sons and a daughter.

A man of great faith and devotion, especially to our Lady Peñafrancia, founded and funded hospitals, bishoprics, monasteries, and churches. An excellent administrator and just ruler, he always strove to use his powers to better his people and his nation.

Monks

Since Fr. Archie Cortez founded the Servants of the Risen Christ Monastic Community in 1998, the number of men joining the order increased tremendously. Three-six months professionals are entering the call of the Lord.

That same year Pope John Paul II approved the order on the recommendation of Subic Bishop Florentino Cinense.

On May 15, in the St. Thomas of the Child Jesus Church in Subic, Subic, two more young men made their religious vows and received their monastic names.

Bro. Brian O. Malinao is from Hipotapo, Bayboy, Leyte while Antonio V. de la Cruz is from the Iloilo City of Molo. Marco Soja.

According to Thomas Merton a Trappist monk, "a monk is a man who has given up everything. He is one who abandoned desire in order to achieve the highest fulfillment of all desires. He has renounced liberty in order to become free. He goes to war because he has found a kind of war that is peace."

Vows

Sor Mary Pauline, a Dominican of the Risen Christ, pronounced her perpetual vows before her brother, Fr. Archie Cortez, prior of the order, at the Sacred Heart Parish Church in San Fernando, Pampanga.

She was born to Aglaonician and Salvador Cortez when brother Fr. Archie was 8 years old. Named Raquel, she finished management at the Philippine School of Business Administration. After working for six years, she got the call to serve the Lord.

The Sanctuarists of the Risen Christ have their formation house behind the residence of Teresita Impemonian. Wilkinson when everybody refers to as the "Mother General of the order."

"Mama Tess" is 71 and still driven a car well. A strong independent woman, Mama Tess had cancer twice and was healed twice. She thought she probably had a mission.

This vow revealed to her when she were needed a bigger place. After building the Sanctuary house to her property she also built a dormitory for the monks to the hills of San Jose, Subic where the Servants of the Risen Christ have a monastery.

I am grateful to Domingo "Kaya D" Liberatus, who told me all this and introduced me to Fr. Archie Cortez, parish priest of St. Thomas of the Child Jesus Church in Subic, Subic.

Boys D prayed to St. Thomas that he would come on someday. He finally did when I ran down at his table during the fiesta lunch of the Sanctuary de Asisenses Sa. Cecilio. We and his host, Stella Phillips, were guests. Two weeks after that, Boys D brought me to Ramon, Subic to meet Fr. Archie.

'Catholic Soul'

Edgardo C. de Vera has written the book "Catholic Soul," featuring essays in Catholic apologetics. Each essay gives you a sound edge of your faith through reading and reflection by two minutes a week for one year.

St. James Bastol, Sr. says in the foreword: "St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the Summa Theologica in Latin. If you are not proficient in the little book 'Catholic Soul' is the next best thing." The book is available at Solar Text bookstore Tel. 7214320) and National Bookstore nationwide.

Cofradia

The Cofradia de Santa Filomena composed of young people chosen by Fr. Jojo Zurbito is in charge of preparations for the special Mass to honor the holy relics of the saint at 6 p.m., May 24, at the holy Redeemer Church in Mandaluyong, QC.

The group consists of Alexander Canaman, Maricar de La Cuesta, Marlon Bruna, Mmc. Oliver Mape, Juan Paolo Jamilano, John Art Mejia, Constancio Wilson, Jenny Pineda and Vincent Trabuco.

Apologies to Fr. Renato Pino who we failed to mention in our Pentea parish column. Fr. Pino was parish priest from 1983-1986.

YOGA CLASSES IN ORTIGAS CENTER
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PURELY PERSONAL
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A man of great faith and devotion, especially to the Virgin Mary, the saint founded and funded hospitals, bishoprics, monasteries, and churches

Learn to face your fear and pain

BRAHMA KUMARI Denise Lawrence will share her life experiences and offer expert advice on how best to handle fear in public programs titled "Face Off (Shaking hands with fear, anger and pain)."

Carib Inn at 6:30 p.m., May 22 at the St. Cecilia Hall, St. Scholastica's College, in Manila.

"Face Off" is a Brahma Kumaris program offered free as a service to the community. Call Reservoir Manila, 9120550; EDSA 5212303 (Manila).

Seaside Italian dining

ITALIANNI'S PASTA BAR opens its newest branch May 22, 2:15, Entertainment section, 3rd Mall of Asia, Bay Boulevard, Pasay City.

The new branch is designed to evoke scenes of Naples and Portofino, two of Italy's seaside attractions. It has a seating capacity of 175.

The new branch features a terrace-deck area where guests can enjoy their food al fresco.

Guests will continue to enjoy pasta, seafood, meat, salad, pizza and more.

Other Italianni's Restaurant branches are at Glorietta 4, tel. 7507985; Greenbelt 3, 7289291; Alabang Town Center, 7721026; Libis, 4109826; Greenhills, 7212998; Tomas Morato, 3702282; Gateway Mall, 9121758; and SM Megamall, 6351505.

ITALIANNI'S opens at SM Mall of Asia

Sunday LIFESTYLE

PSYCHE and Cupid

THE AUTHOR on a visit to the world's most famous museum

At the Louvre and loving every minute of it

A 6th grader from the School of the Holy Spirit in QC tracks down the 'Da Vinci code' in the famous Paris museum

By Ariza Ann S. Nicum
Contributor

THANKS TO DAN BROWN'S bestseller, the Louvre Museum has attracted much public interest akin to that usually showered on the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe.

However, it is also unfortunate that because of the infamous "The Da Vinci Code," the Louvre has been seen as a dusty, stodgy place, considering it is where the character of Sesquier Sauniere is murdered in the novel.

But my visit to the Louvre last October gave me a different impression of the awesome majesty of this breathtaking place filled with wonderful paintings and statues and relics of civilization.

The immensity of the Louvre was very striking. I had never imagined that it would stretch for miles. The museum itself was a work of art, sporting the classic Renaissance architecture. Its chambers consisted of ornate carvings. Through its massive pathways, its ceilings never ceased to amaze. The only thing that was entirely different from the rest was the modern glass pyramid located outside.

This pyramid actually has a controversial history. It was constructed with 666 panes of glass, said to be the number of Satan. Thus, the pyramid was said to be a symbol of bad luck. Its appearance seemingly represents the meeting of Heaven and the pyramid.

As I entered the Louvre, a different song of all greeted me. It was like that of any museum, a muffled of chemical apparently used to counteract the corrosive carbon dioxide that was put out.

Apparently, the ancient paintings were photo-shy. We were not allowed to take pictures of any of them because of the danger of their contemporaries to light.

There was a surge of unexpected thoughts while I walked past the different sculptures and paintings. It was as if I was starting through time. Through the first civilizations and the periods actually seemed quite neat. Through different styles of art that had changed little by little through time. Still, I stopped to marvel at one of the most valuable masterpieces in the Louvre, "Venus de Milo."

Strong picture

I have seen a great deal of sculptures and I can say that "Venus de Milo" is not the most beautiful. But its portrayal of a goddess torso with no hands was quite unique in that it provided a strong picture of femininity.

Scores of statues were found here and there. The endless hallway stretched out yet, the most noticeable were the Italian sculptures namely Michaelangelo's "The Dying Slave" and "Psyche and Cupid." "The Dying Slave" gave me the feeling of wanting to break free. Its image was followed on my mind. "Psyche and Cupid" was a very unique portrayal of love breathing life.

ATTN: LOUVRE #2

THE INVERTED pyramid

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EGYPTIAN mummy

FEAST of the Louvre façade

At the Louvre and loving every minute of it

PRICELESS ceiling art that would render you still-necked

Frenzy-go-rio

I never thought there were two pyramids in the Louvre but there, here I was standing still at the sight of an inexplicably reverse pyramid. The transparent glass created a complex impression upon me. I was just amazed how they were able to construct it.

Soon, I carried on, leaving behind gasps of amazement as I saw the works of art that I had seen in many documentaries, films and books. The smoke of such artists as Da Vinci, Picasso, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Michelangelo and so much more left me breathless. Standing there, between two separate flights of stairs, was the "Winged Victory." Even when I first heard the name, I was already filled with wonder.

The "Winged Victory" was actually the stunt figure of a ship. It looked very ancient considering the fact that it was headless. Its daring symmetry, it was certainly a symbol of heroism and joy.

Shocking

Countless pieces of art were mentioned in the "Da Vinci Code," but the one that had the most shocking description and explanation was the "Madonna of the Rocks."

The "Madonna of the Rocks" is actually an original version for Da Vinci supposedly created in an alternate an address. But the main deity's script is because of a shocking artistic display there. The Virgin Mary was shown there as the main instructor, but her left hand was reversed grasping for a human head and angel. Until held out her hand as if a knife sliced through the invisible head.

Da Vinci made another painting that was less mysterious, "Virgin of the Rocks."

In "The Da Vinci Code," "Madonna of the Rocks" was the pointing of great mystery where protagonist Sophie Neveu finds a key to solve the grave mystery. Though creepy, "Madonna of the Rocks" is still a marvel of art.

I was still in my time machine as I entered the Salle des Etats but then, I felt as though time stopped because there it was, before my eyes, the world's "La Joconde."

"La Joconde" is actually "Mona Lisa" in French. The French were obviously proud of their native tongue and so, there it was recognized.

The very moment I saw her, I couldn't help but stare. Her ground an enigmatic smile that I couldn't ever forget. Her knowingly mysterious eyes followed me as I examined her with great anticipation. She spied me as if keeping a secret. The picture was small but well guarded. Guards were posted simply just to hinder visitors from taking pictures or touching the "Mona Lisa." Actually, she needed the extra attention.

France tried hard when she was under choice. Thankfully, "Mona Lisa" is back in the museum for all to see.

The young, the old, those who seek answers and dubbed Dan Brown followers all stop a while to marvel at the veracity and mystery of the most valuable objects in the Louvre, the "Mona Lisa."

Muslim artifacts

I was moved when I saw a whole room filled royal crown jewels. The ornate walls could simply be described as breathtaking. There was no blank part of any wall left. Every corner was either sculpted with gold, filled with a painting or sculpture. Even though they were a huge amount, they would never measure up to the "Mona Lisa."

Far away from home, I couldn't believe I'd see Asian artifacts and works of art in the Louvre. Still, I was there, admiring an effigy of Adan number.

For me, these artifacts only seemed to exist in the encyclopedia and yet now I could admire the detail and style of art being consummated to me by the very beautiful effigy. These wonders had gone such a long way and endured a devastating past and yet, there I was, amazed by them.

There were antiquities of diverse origin from the Mesopotamia, Greece, Rome and even Iran. It was startled when I saw the sarcophagus of a married couple as it was way before.

The "Statue of Mr. Ghazali" was also present making me back through time in Asia. I saw even the very ancient "Winged Bull" filled with legends for brand of fortune.

Being Muslim myself, I was astonished when I saw Islamic artifacts. I saw the famous "Basin," known as the "Baptistery of Saint Louis" and the "Pixis of al- Mughira." I felt proud to see a piece of my religion in the Louvre.

There I witnessed rare of the first and most powerful civilizations to ever walk this earth, the Egyptians. I was awed by the hieroglyphics, images of gods, stone tablets, scrolls and even a coffin with a mummy inside.

Part of the Louvre was Medieval. Every brick, every column filled you back to ease into the Medieval atmosphere. I didn't expect to see a Medieval mote in the Louvre but I was standing there, imagining knights and myself pictured in distress.

My experience at the Louvre was a very rewarding one. I am glad that I was able to see it before Hollywood and Dan Brown's book reduced its artistic and structural significance to a dark and macabre suspense story involving concealed tower-ups and conspiracy theories.

E-mail the author at entertainment@yahoo.com

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TravelBriefs

Baka festival

The 2006 Annual Baka Festival at the Mabulingkilay Beach Resort and Hotel (BRHR) will be held May 26-27 in Lian, Batangas. This year's theme is "Pangalagaan ang Ating Kalikasan, Panatilihin ang Ating Kapaligiran, Isulong Natin ang Kaunlaran!" Now in its fourth year, the event will feature Baka Race, Baka Dance Competition and Colorful Baka Contest, participated to by students from local schools. Other activities during the two-day festival are Bataille, Beer Pizza, Baka Race, Baka Dance and Ghost Dancing. A beach party at the Mabulingkilay Beach Resort and hotel with bands from Batangas will cap the celebration.

Sweet deals

Singapore Air offers Sweet Deals with a trip to its Chi Minh City for $429 per person on Sats stay-ins. The price includes round trip economy airfare, two nights hotel accommodations in a Chi Minh City -round-trip airport transfers, daily breakfasts and a half-day city tour plus an overnight stay in Singapore. Travel deals are also available for Kuala Lumpur, Bali, Siem Reap, Rochdale and Maldives. Also available are round-trip airfares in Singapore, Australia and London. Visit singaporeair.com or call SIA Tours Manila at (632)757-1010 or (02)st. 1969. Get peak-season and low-season rates and low reservations at (632)8888 (for airfares) or Cebu, 3226211, and/or Davao, 3240606.

Top city

Singapore was ranked Top Convention City in Asia for the seventh time, and recently the world according to the American-based International Congress & Convention Association. At the top position in Asia since 1995, Singapore hosted 106 conventions last year. Barcelona hosted 118 while Rome, the Top Convention City worldwide, hosted 129 meetings.

Adventure feat

Join Island Canteen's Agusan Adventure feat, a Wild Green Summer Environmental Summer Camp, May 25-28, and learn about the environment and conservation from educational talks and activities. It will be an action-packed four-day, three-night trip that will include outdoor camping, trekking, spelunking (cave exploration), rope lessons, climbing, rappelling and canoeing. Expert guides will assist. Interested or in a small motorboat also like the 150-bhp drive motor and consortia like the 100-passenger Centennial Isle. The program costs P6,500. Call Island Caravan at 8867 813, 8863 160, and 886-1883 or e-mail inquiry@islandcaravan.com

ASIAN THEME

Batangas' Virgin Beach Resort has the widest and cleanest beach along the Luiys, Batangas, coastline. It was designed by owner Buzzi Campos and has a multi-Asian theme. Less than three hours away from Manila, it offers fresh cuisine and the famous Batangas coffee, among others. Water, air and mountain activities such as fishing, parasailing, jet-skiing and trekking in Mt. Dagohoi are available as guests. Visit www.virginbeachresort.com